

**CHAPTER 35****( HCR 29 )**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION promoting, as a public policy goal of the Commonwealth, enhanced opportunities for outdoor activity for Kentucky's children.

WHEREAS, Kentucky is blessed with an abundance of natural resources for recreation, enjoyment, and the physical, emotional, and education health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's children are becoming less connected with the natural world around them; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that there are considerable health-related, physical, emotional, and educational benefits to playing, exploring, and experiencing Kentucky's outdoor environment; and

WHEREAS, a National No Child Left Inside movement encourages children to reconnect with nature and its outdoor wonders; and

WHEREAS, a non-profit organization named kidsGROWkentucky, Inc. is supported by conservation, health, environmental, and educational professionals, parents, and outdoor recreation and soft adventure outfitters, and is committed to getting Kentucky's kids outdoors; and

WHEREAS, outdoor experience is critical to the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of Kentucky's next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

➔Section 1. Increasing outdoor participation of Kentucky's children and young adults is a public policy goal of the Commonwealth. Public institutions in the Commonwealth serving children and young adults are encouraged to offer, promote, and encourage free play opportunities, outdoor experiences, and field trips to natural areas and venues that provide right-brain learning which stimulates creativity and innovation.

➔Section 2. It is hereby declared the sentiment of the General Assembly that children in Kentucky, as a part of their childhood development, are encouraged to:

- (a) Fish, swim, paddle, ski, wade, splash, or otherwise enjoy a Kentucky stream, creek, river, or lake;
- (b) Hike, hunt, bird watch, view elk and other wildlife, and explore Kentucky's natural wilderness areas, parks, trails, woods, natural habitats, farms, and agritourism establishments;
- (c) Bike in safe areas and routes to schools, recreation and park areas, neighborhood stores, and shops;
- (d) Enjoy kid-friendly parks;
- (e) Attend school activities, extracurricular events, and free play opportunities that inspire and hopefully instill a culture of learning that develop balanced right-brain and left-brain learning and that promote the concepts of No Child Left Inside; and
- (f) Assist, advise, and promote access to outdoor areas and opportunities.

**Signed by Governor April 11, 2012.**