

CHAPTER 36**(HCR 53)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government to study issues relative to special districts.

WHEREAS, special districts provide innumerable and valuable public services, such as the provision of water, treatment of sewage, fire suppression, soil conservation, provision of library services, solid waste disposal, and provision of airports, along with many other services; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1,600 special districts, including taxing and non-taxing districts; and

WHEREAS, despite providing valuable public services, special districts have been criticized over the years for a lack of fiscal and organizational oversight due to their core autonomy, and to the additional overlays of government as in some counties multiple special districts may be providing services to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, in recent times certain special districts have been singled out in audits conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in the audits certain themes arise including: ensuring the education of board members as to their fiscal, administrative and ethical responsibilities; adhering to open meetings and open records laws; methods of receiving, analyzing, investigating and resolving concerns presented to the organization; whistle-blower policies; auditing standards, and internal fiscal controls; ethics; financial disclosure and conflicts of interest; personnel compensation and benefits; and procurement of goods and services;

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. The Interim Joint Committee on Local Government is directed to study during the 2012 Interim special districts' fiscal, administrative, and ethical issues in light of recent audits conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

➔Section 2. The Interim Joint Committee on Local Government may issue findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission and may make recommendations for any legislation that it may deem necessary.

➔Section 3. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, The Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

Signed by Governor April 11, 2012.