

CHAPTER 54**(SCR 44)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION declaring Kentucky to be the "Houseboat Capital of the World."

WHEREAS, the boating industry generates over \$826 million annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Houseboat Magazine reported that the Lake Cumberland region of Kentucky produced more houseboats than any other area in the nation; and

WHEREAS, there are several houseboat manufacturing companies in Kentucky, and one notable company, Sharpe Marine, also known as Somerset Houseboats, began in the late 1940s working on a design that would make houseboats a signature industry for Kentucky for the next 60 years; and

WHEREAS, Jim Sharpe of Somerset, Kentucky is credited with building the first houseboat in 1953, and that boat design served as the catalyst for the development of the modern houseboat industry as we know it today; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1990s, Kentucky's houseboat industry entered into international markets exporting houseboats made in Kentucky around the globe; and

WHEREAS, since then, thousands of houseboats have been built around the shores of Lake Cumberland, but Kentuckians, like the thousands of visitors who migrate to Kentucky every year, enjoy houseboating as a recreational opportunity too; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky is uniquely blessed with more navigable waters than any other state in the nation except Alaska, which makes Kentucky a wonderful destination for houseboaters and further supports Kentucky's boating and outdoor recreational tourism industry;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. Kentucky is hereby declared to be the "Houseboat Capital of the World."

Signed by Governor April 7, 2014.