

**CHAPTER 84****( HJR 100 )**

A JOINT RESOLUTION honoring the aerospace/aviation products manufacturing industry upon becoming the top exporting industry in the Commonwealth, and directing a study of the economic impact of the overall aerospace/aviation industry in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, in February 2014, the Governor announced that the value of annual Kentucky exports had broken records for the third consecutive year; and that aerospace products manufactured in Kentucky led the Commonwealth's export growth with \$5.6 billion worth of exports in 2013, just surpassing the value of exported motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts; and

WHEREAS, as of 1998, the aerospace/aviation sector was a \$10 billion industry in Kentucky that employed over 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the number of people employed in the private aerospace/aviation products manufacturing industry in Kentucky has increased by 63 percent since 2002, with a corresponding 100 percent increase in the establishment of aerospace companies; and

WHEREAS, the availability of passenger travel and commercial/industrial freight shipping through the state's six primary air carrier and 53 general aviation airports, along with work currently performed at Kentucky-based plants such as Messier-Bugatti-Dowty in Walton, Mazak Corporation in Florence, Indy Honeycomb in Covington, Meyer Tool, Incorporated in Erlanger, GE Engine in Madisonville, Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems in Danville, Roll Forming Corporation in Shelbyville, and Lockheed-Martin-Bluegrass Station in Lexington, has helped cement this industry among the state's economic fabric, not only creating direct high-paying jobs but also solidifying the Commonwealth as a destination for aerospace/aviation manufacturers and others that see the Bluegrass State as a potential location to expand their businesses and create new jobs; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, a portion of the Commonwealth was recognized by the federal government for the strength and potential of its aerospace/aviation manufacturing sector by being designated as part of the "Southwestern Ohio Aerospace Regional Manufacturing Community," a status that brings with it opportunities for greater development assistance and funding from various federal agencies as part of the "Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership" program of the United States Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, the strength of aerospace and aviation in Kentucky has created a need for greater public awareness of this thriving industry as well as more education and training opportunities for employment in this field; and while there are only 98 high schools across the United States that teach aerospace and aviation skills, 28 of those high schools are in Kentucky, placing the students of the Commonwealth at the forefront of this industry of the future; and

WHEREAS, many of the Commonwealth's postsecondary institutions are working to ensure that future generations of Kentuckians are knowledgeable about aerospace, aviation, and advanced manufacturing methods, and that proper workforce training is available for aerospace, aviation, and manufacturing companies seeking to locate in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Kentucky University's Professional Pilots Program, the Space Science Center at Morehead State University in partnership with NASA and other aerospace agencies worldwide, the University of Kentucky, Somerset Community College's Aviation Maintenance Tech Program, Embry-Riddle University, and Jefferson Community College collectively offer undergraduate and advanced degrees that make Kentucky the standard-bearer in the field of aerospace and aviation education; and

WHEREAS, the National Air & Space Academy, a nonprofit educational organization based at Bowman Field in Louisville, is working with member high schools, airports, and others, including 28 high schools in Kentucky, as America's leading provider of aeronautic and aerospace-based educational programs for high school students that develop and promote proficiency in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, or STEM, producing college and career-ready graduates prepared to become the next generation of aerospace workers through interactive, challenging, hands-on approaches to learning that are engaging and proven effective; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 children have been taught the science and physics of flight through the official Aviation Museum of Kentucky, and the history of Kentuckians in aerospace and aviation through the official Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame at the Blue Grass Airport; and

WHEREAS, the aerospace/aviation industry continues to be a vital part of Kentucky's economy, its education,

and its culture; and the strength of the industry and the essential role it plays in the lives of so many Kentuckians is a testament to its future in this Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The General Assembly honors the aerospace/aviation products manufacturing industry upon becoming the top exporting industry in the Commonwealth.

➔Section 2. The Transportation Cabinet, the Cabinet for Economic Development, and the Commission on Military Affairs are directed to cooperatively study the economic impact of the overall aerospace/aviation industry in the Commonwealth, pursuant to this Resolution, and to report their findings to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission.

➔Section 3. For its part, the Transportation Cabinet shall study the general aviation airport system in the Commonwealth, examining various aspects of the general aviation airport network, including but not limited to:

(1) Inventorying and categorizing the existing facilities, infrastructure, and based aircraft, noting deficiencies, and providing suggestions for improvements to ensure that Kentucky's general aviation airports are safe, well-maintained, and efficient, in accordance with state and federal guidelines and regulations;

(2) Documenting the contribution of the state's network of general aviation airports to the overall well-being of all Kentuckians, in terms of the number of airports, the impacts on emergency medical transportation, and disaster relief, and identifying the opportunities and benefits that these facilities provide their local communities and the general public; and

(3) Quantifying the direct economic impact general aviation airports have on their respective communities across the Commonwealth.

➔Section 4. For its part, the Cabinet for Economic Development shall study the aerospace/aviation products manufacturing industry in the Commonwealth, and related issues, including but not limited to:

(1) The number and location of aerospace/aviation products manufacturing facilities in the state, and an evaluation of the number of persons currently employed at those facilities and their levels of compensation, with a breakdown by gender where possible, as well as other economic impacts generated by the facilities;

(2) The unique needs of those manufacturers, and opportunities for state and local government agencies, including secondary and postsecondary educational institutions, to assist with meeting those needs;

(3) The status and impact of educational and workforce training programs currently available in the state that are tailored to employment in the aerospace/aviation industry, and opportunities for further development of these programs; and

(4) Opportunities for further growth and development of the entire aerospace/aviation industry in the Commonwealth, including but not limited to the possibility of expanding the Southwestern Ohio Aerospace Regional Manufacturing Community to include additional regions of the Commonwealth in the future, and other strategies for attracting and creating new high-paying jobs in the state.

➔Section 5. For its part, the Commission on Military Affairs shall evaluate military assets and infrastructure existing in the Commonwealth that may contribute to the growth and development of the commercial unmanned aerial systems industry and other sectors of the aerospace/aviation industry. The commission shall develop recommendations that the Commonwealth may pursue, with the United States Department of Defense and others, in order to capitalize on the presence of Fort Campbell, Fort Knox, and other installations in the state, and to support further development of the aerospace/aviation industry in Kentucky.

➔Section 6. Each agency shall be responsible for its identified portion of the overall study, and shall from time to time, prior to the completion of the joint final report, update the General Assembly or committees thereof as to the on-going status of the study.

➔Section 7. In furtherance of this study, the Transportation Cabinet, Cabinet for Economic Development, and Commission on Military Affairs, shall each work cooperatively with one another, and with federal, state, and local government agencies, private industry groups, educational institutions, and other interested parties, as necessary, and shall each seek all available sources of funding from these and other groups to defray the costs of their respective portions of the study. Upon request as part of the study efforts, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Council on Postsecondary Education shall each cooperate with, and make information and data available to, the Cabinet for Economic Development.

➔Section 8. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit one copy of this Resolution to the Honorable Mike Hancock, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40622; one copy to the Honorable Larry Hayes, Secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, 300 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and one copy to Colonel David E. Thompson (USA, Retired), Executive Director and Chair of the Commission on Military Affairs, 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 105, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

**Signed by Governor March 30, 2015.**