

CHAPTER 49
(HCR 187)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging and petitioning the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to require advance electronic data screening of all inbound shipments to the United States to facilitate identification and interception of illegal synthetic drugs and chemicals.

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky has experienced a significant increase in the illegal use, sale, and trafficking of dangerous and potentially fatal synthetic drugs, including synthetic cannabinoids, opioids, and cathinones; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 300 synthetic drugs imported into the United States and more than 500 distributed globally, most of them produced in China, according to the United States Department of State; and

WHEREAS, the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency has implemented advance electronic manifesting and security screening as a key tool for identifying and intercepting high-risk shipments that may include illegal or dangerous goods such as synthetic drugs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Customs and Border Protection Agency is authorized by the Trade Act of 2002 to require foreign postal services to provide advance electronic manifests and security screening data; and

WHEREAS, a major avenue for the importation of synthetic drugs is shipping small parcels through the international mail system via foreign postal services, and are the only commercial import shipments that do not currently provide advance electronic manifests and security screening data;

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 United States Customs and Border Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security are hereby urged and petitioned to expeditiously promulgate federal regulations requiring advance electronic screening data on all package shipments inbound into the United States, including shipments from foreign postal services.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528; R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20610; Senator Rand Paul, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510; Representative Andy Barr, 1432 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Thomas Massie, 314 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Brett Guthrie, 2434 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Harold Rogers, 2406 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative John Yarmuth, 403 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Representative Edward Whitfield, 2184 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Signed by Governor April 8, 2016.