

CHAPTER 91**(SJR 158)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to collaborate with appropriate historical and preservation organizations to identify Civil War battlefield preservation needs and advise on a report submitted by the Civil War Sites Association and the Civil War Trust.

WHEREAS, because of the efforts of early citizen soldiers, the United States of America is the world's oldest and most successful democratic republic; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky was the site of numerous battles during the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War, many of which played a significant role in the outcome of major military campaigns and the course of these wars; and

WHEREAS, the battles of the American Revolutionary War and the Civil War shaped who we are today, and by preserving these battlegrounds as outdoor classrooms, we provide educational opportunities that can serve as a foundation for good citizenship and the development of leaders for tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, preserving these hallowed battlefields provides the opportunity to tell the American story, where ordinary citizens displayed extraordinary valor; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of these battlefields is important to ensure their integrity in perpetuity so that future citizens and visitors can experience the landscapes as our soldiers saw it; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of these battlefields provides civic pride, opportunities for education, commemorative events, and tourism opportunities across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that visitors to historic sites spend more money and stay longer than other tourist subgroups; and

WHEREAS, visitors to Kentucky's battlefields stimulate local economies while enjoying the rich historical, cultural, and natural resources, thereby generating jobs and economic activity;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet is requested to collaborate with the Kentucky Civil War Sites Association and the Civil War Trust to identify historically significant Civil War heritage tourism sites in Kentucky.

➔Section 2. The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet is requested to participate in a stakeholder meeting which includes representatives from the Kentucky Civil War Sites Association, the Civil War Trust, the Kentucky Travel Industry Association, the Department of Tourism, the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Historical Society, and local battlefield support groups in Kentucky suggesting ways to preserve these heritage tourism sites.

➔Section 3. The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet shall provide feedback to a report submitted by the Civil War Sites Association and the Civil War Trust on or before December 3, 2018, to the Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology.

Signed by Governor April 2, 2018.