

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the staff of the Legislative Research Commission to study the economic impact of adventure tourism in the four-county region consisting of Harlan, Knott, Letcher, and Magoffin Counties.

WHEREAS, horseback riding, boating, hiking, rock climbing, bicycling, hunting and fishing, and ATV trails are just some examples of what is often referred to as adventure tourism; and

WHEREAS, adventure tourism is an increasingly vital segment of Kentucky's tourism appeal; and

WHEREAS, adventure tourism is estimated to generate over \$500 million in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet is encouraging rural communities to develop adventure tourism resources as part of their overall economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, adventure tourism projects are rapidly developing in eastern Kentucky, with some notable examples being the Pioneer Horse Trail and the Dawkins Line Rail Trail in Letcher County; the Pine Mountain Trail, ATV trails, and the Trail Town Initiative in Harlan County; the development of the Artisan Center, Historic Hindman, and numerous outdoor events in Knott County; and the Dawkins Line Rail Trail and Pioneer Village in Magoffin Count; and

WHEREAS, the scarcity of marketing funds and the shared nature of adventure tourism resources lend themselves to cooperative, regional development efforts; and

WHEREAS, information concerning the economic impact of adventure tourism is needed to allow for more informed and accurate decision making regarding development and promotional efforts;

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 staff of the Legislative Research Commission shall conduct a study of adventure tourism for a four-county region consisting of Harlan, Knott, Letcher, and Magoffin Counties to:

(1) Compile an inventory of adventure tourism businesses in the region that focus on outdoor leisure and recreational activities, estimate the annual economic impact of adventure tourism activities in the region, and estimate out-of-state spending on adventure tourism activities in the region;

(2) Identify trends in adventure tourism and possible resources that could be developed in the region;

(3) Identify federal and state programs that offer assistance to local communities in developing and promoting adventure tourism; and

(4) Identify policy options for developing and promoting adventure tourism that may be available to the General Assembly.

➔Section 2. Staff shall transmit the results of the study to the Legislative Research Commission for distribution to the appropriate interim joint committee or committees by December 1, 2015.

➔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.