

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Transportation Cabinet to seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration to allow Kentucky arts and crafts to be sold directly to the traveling public at Kentucky Welcome Centers.

WHEREAS, Kentucky is served by five major interstate corridors that link the Commonwealth to all regions of our United States and bring tens of thousands of travelers and tourists daily to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, seven Welcome Centers at major points of ingress to the Commonwealth host in excess of 3.2 million travelers and tourists annually; and

WHEREAS, the aesthetics, landscaping, and cleanliness of our Welcome Centers serve to give visitors their first impressions of Kentucky, and the information provided at the centers allows visitors to learn more about the attractions, food, and lodging options available to them; and

WHEREAS, the environment and settings at Welcome Centers provide an excellent opportunity for local artisans to display their wares; and

WHEREAS, federal statutes and regulations prohibit the sale of merchandise and wares at safety rest areas, except that states may apply to the Federal Highway Administration for exemptions and test programs; and

WHEREAS, the combination of economic pressures on rural communities requires innovative approaches to create new opportunities and venues for local artisans to market their products to a wider audience;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet, in conjunction with the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet and the Kentucky Arts Council, shall develop and submit a proposal to the Federal Highway Administration requesting a waiver from restrictions placed by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-599, 23 U.S.C. sec. 111, on the sale of handmade merchandise and wares produced by Kentucky artisans at

Welcome Centers on interstate highways.

➔Section 2. The proposal developed by the Transportation Cabinet, the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Kentucky Arts Council shall include but not be limited to a schedule of dates and times for the sale of handmade merchandise and wares, a limit on the number of persons who may sell their merchandise and wares at Welcome Centers, the location where booths may be set up at Welcome Centers, and an application and approval process by which artisans may sell their handmade merchandise and wares during approved dates and times at Welcome Centers.

➔Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet, the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, and the Kentucky Arts Council shall jointly prepare and submit a report on the proposal to the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation and the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism no later than November 17, 2016.