

A JOINT RESOLUTION establishing a task force to study all-terrain vehicle usage as a means to promote and develop adventure tourism and economic development, and directing that a comprehensive plan be prepared for the use of all-terrain vehicles on trail systems in eastern Kentucky.

WHEREAS, tourism is a vital component of eastern Kentucky's economic development strategy; and

WHEREAS, adventure tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of tourism in eastern Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, adventure travelers are estimated to spend \$240 per person per overnight visit, which helps to support innumerable small businesses and create thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, off-road recreational all-terrain vehicle usage is one of the fastest growing segments of the adventure tourism market; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has over 12,400 miles of trail resources, of which 1,378 miles are available to all-terrain vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has embarked upon a program to develop trail towns, which are communities dedicated to supporting adventure tourism, as a strategy for economic growth in rural areas;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Transportation Cabinet, the Kentucky Department of Parks, the Department for Natural Resources, and the Pine Mountain Trail Commission are directed to form a task force to study off-road recreational all-terrain vehicle (ATV) usage as a catalyst for adventure tourism and economic development, and to develop a comprehensive plan creating a trail system in eastern Kentucky for off-road recreational ATVs. The task force may review any relevant topic related to off-road recreational ATV usage, but the task force shall at a minimum

specifically examine:

- (1) Current off-road recreational ATV usage in eastern Kentucky and projections for increased usage;
- (2) The current availability of commercial and publically owned sites where off-road recreational ATV usage is allowed;
- (3) The economic impact of off-road recreational ATV usage in eastern Kentucky, including estimates of the numbers of out-of-state visitors who travel to eastern Kentucky to participate in off-road recreational ATV activities, estimates of direct spending in the region by visitors, and projections of the economic impact that increased numbers of visitors may have if off-road recreational ATV trails are developed; and
- (4) The feasibility of using segments of the Pine Mountain Trail, portions of the Breaks Interstate Park trail system that fall within the boundaries of the Commonwealth, and other trails on state-owned land in eastern Kentucky for development of off-road recreational ATV trails.

The task force shall make recommendations and develop a comprehensive plan based on its findings.

➔Section 2. The task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or designee;
- (2) The secretary of the Transportation Cabinet or designee;
- (3) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Parks or designee;
- (4) The commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources or designee;
- (5) The chairman of the Breaks Interstate Park Commission or designee; and
- (6) The president of the Pine Mountain Trail Commission or designee.

➔Section 3. The task force shall meet at least once monthly and it shall commence its first meeting within 30 days after the effective date of this Resolution. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research

Commission and the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism no later than November 17, 2016.