

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Kentucky Volunteer Firefighter  
2 Recruitment and Retention Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, according to National Volunteer Fire Council, more than 69 percent of  
4 the 1.1 million firefighters in the United States are volunteer firefighters; and

5 WHEREAS, of the 676 Kentucky fire departments registered with the National Fire  
6 Department Census, nearly 91 percent were solely or mostly staffed by volunteer  
7 firefighters; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the National Volunteer Fire Council, volunteer  
9 firefighters save their communities more than \$139.8 billion annually; and

10 WHEREAS, local communities around the Commonwealth of Kentucky rely upon  
11 volunteer firefighters for a broad range of emergency services; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the National Volunteer Fire Council, the number of  
13 volunteer firefighters has decreased by 12 percent since 1984; and

14 WHEREAS, training requirements for volunteer firefighters and requests for  
15 services from volunteer fire departments have increased significantly over the years; and

16 WHEREAS, the recruitment and retention of qualified volunteer firefighters are  
17 imperative for the safety of local communities across Kentucky;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
20 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

21 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to create a  
22 Kentucky Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Task Force that shall study  
23 the use of volunteer firefighters in Kentucky, the factors impacting the recruitment and  
24 retention of volunteer firefighters, and the options used in Kentucky and across the nation  
25 to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The task force shall develop consensus  
26 recommendations to improve the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters in the  
27 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

1           ➔Section 2. (1)       The task force shall be composed of the following members,  
2 with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of  
3 the Legislative Research Commission:

4           (a)   The chair of the Senate State and Local Government Committee;

5           (b)   The chair of the House of Representatives Local Government Committee;

6           (c)   Three members of the Senate, two to be appointed by the President of the  
7 Senate, and one to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;

8           (d)   Three members of the House of Representatives, two to be appointed by the  
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one to be appointed by the Minority Floor  
10 Leader of the House of Representatives;

11          (e)   The Executive Director of the Kentucky Fire Commission;

12          (f)   Two certified volunteer firefighters recommended by the Kentucky  
13 Firefighters Association;

14          (g)   Two fire chiefs who serve as fire chiefs for volunteer fire departments or for  
15 fire departments that are predominately staffed by volunteer firefighters, one of whom  
16 shall be recommended by the Kentucky Fire Commission and one of whom shall be  
17 recommended by the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs;

18          (h)   The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky Association  
19 of Counties; and

20          (i)   The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky League of  
21 Cities.

22          (2)   The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
23 shall each appoint one co-chair of the task force from among the task force members  
24 appointed from their respective chambers.

25           ➔Section 3.   The task force shall meet during the 2017 Interim and shall submit its  
26 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the  
27 appropriate committee or committees by December 1, 2017.

1           ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
2 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the  
3 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof and to  
4 designate a study completion date.