

1           A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
2 direct all available veterans' center beds, as they become available, toward a veteran  
3 nursing home in Magoffin County, Kentucky.

4           WHEREAS, throughout the history of the Commonwealth, its sons and daughters  
5 have answered the nation's call to military service and have traversed the globe in defense  
6 of this great country; and

7           WHEREAS, Kentucky's veterans deserve all of the respect and admiration for their  
8 service that can be mustered, and in doing so the Commonwealth has an obligation to  
9 ensure access to the best quality healthcare available; and

10           WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs operates four veterans'  
11 centers in Kentucky located in Wilmore, Hazard, Hanson, and Radcliff, with a fifth in the  
12 application process for Bowling Green. This distribution of facilities means that far more  
13 veterans' center beds are available to veterans in Western and Central Kentucky than in  
14 Eastern Kentucky; and

15           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has limited the  
16 number of veterans' center beds in Kentucky to 818. With the Bowling Green Veterans'  
17 Center, Kentucky will have 771 beds available, leaving an allocation of only 47 beds that  
18 could be offered by a veterans' center in Magoffin County; and

19           WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs has privatized more  
20 rooms within the existing veterans' centers throughout the Commonwealth and are not  
21 fully utilizing their designated bed allotment; and

22           WHEREAS, if the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs completes a  
23 recognition survey of each veterans' center within the Commonwealth, the unused beds  
24 could be added to the remaining bed allotment and utilized by a veterans' center in  
25 Magoffin County; and

26           WHEREAS, an 80-bed veterans' center would greatly benefit the veterans and their  
27 families in Central and Eastern Kentucky; and

1           WHEREAS, Magoffin County is centrally located in Eastern Kentucky. A facility  
2 located in Magoffin County would be within 100 miles of the VA Medical Centers in  
3 Huntington, West Virginia, and Lexington, Kentucky, and the VA Clinic in Prestonsburg,  
4 Kentucky; and

5           WHEREAS, Magoffin County suffers from a higher than the national average of  
6 unemployment and an 80-bed facility would create over 100 jobs; and

7           WHEREAS, with the expansion of the Mountain Parkway, a Magoffin County  
8 facility would provide easy access to the facility for veterans and their families; and

9           WHEREAS, the county judge/executive and fiscal court of Magoffin County have  
10 signed a resolution stating that land is available for such a facility;

11           NOW, THEREFORE,

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

13           ➔Section 1. Veterans are some of our Commonwealth's greatest and most revered  
14 citizens who should be cared for and treated with the utmost respect.

15           ➔Section 2. The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs is hereby directed to  
16 allocate veterans' center beds, as they become available, toward a Magoffin County  
17 Veterans' Center.

18           ➔Section 3. The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs shall make no less  
19 than annual reports to the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and  
20 Public Protection of their progress in locating a veterans' center in Magoffin County,  
21 Kentucky.