

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 11-17, 2018, as Sunshine Week 2018 in
2 Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of the United States Constitution, wrote
4 about the importance of knowledge among the people, noting the importance that they
5 "arm themselves with the power knowledge gives"; and

6 WHEREAS, each citizen in a participatory democracy has an inherent right of
7 access to government meetings and public records; and

8 WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and
9 maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the
10 government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, the protection of every person's right of access to public records and
12 government meetings is a high priority of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1992, the General Assembly enacted the Kentucky Open Records
14 Act, declaring the importance of free and open examination of public records to the
15 public interest; and

16 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Open Meetings Act guarantees that the formation of
17 public policy is public business and shall not be conducted in privacy unless provided by
18 law; and

19 WHEREAS, Sunshine Week was established in 2005 to spark discussion about the
20 value of open government and unrestricted access, by law, of the public to government
21 records and information; and

22 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is committed to transparency in all
23 aspects of its operations and seeks to set a standard in this regard;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
26 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

27 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes March 11-17, 2018, as

1 Sunshine Week 2018 in Kentucky, commits during this time to commemorate the
2 anniversary of James Madison's birth, and further commits, both during this time and
3 throughout the year, to work diligently to enhance the public's access to government
4 records and information, to increase information provided electronically and online, and
5 to ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies and committees under its jurisdiction are
6 fully noticed and open to the public.

7 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
8 recognition of Sunshine Week 2018 in Kentucky.