

1           A RESOLUTION encouraging local governments and local public agencies  
2 providing playgrounds to utilize playground equipment accessible to and usable by all  
3 persons regardless of physical or mental condition, so children of all abilities can play  
4 alongside each other.

5           WHEREAS, play areas are not just places where children have fun; play is a vital  
6 part of how children grow, learn, and maintain a healthy lifestyle; and

7           WHEREAS, playgrounds are where children learn to explore, build friendships, and  
8 develop social skills they will use to interact with each other throughout their lives;  
9 learning to play, side-by-side with their peers with disabilities, teaches compassion and  
10 empathy, along with a desire to help others; and

11           WHEREAS, all children deserve to experience the thrill and escapism of  
12 meaningful play, and everyone can enjoy the exhilaration and magic that arguably only  
13 playgrounds can produce, and no child should be left "on the sidelines"; and

14           WHEREAS, inclusive playground designs have been evolving for decades and  
15 federal accessibility guidelines have been around since the 1990s; and

16           WHEREAS, the federal government has made access to play areas a civil right  
17 under the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

18           WHEREAS, federal requirements for public playgrounds now require them to  
19 include equipment, materials, and designs that provide children with or without  
20 disabilities the same play opportunities; and

21           WHEREAS, accessible and inclusive playgrounds may include but are not limited  
22 to: wheelchair-friendly surfaces and access ramps; various special swings, including  
23 wheelchair accessible ones; special slides, including ones for the hearing impaired, deaf,  
24 and children with cochlear hearing implants; multisensory areas with shrubs, plants, trees,  
25 sand, and water and a sensory panel for children with visual challenges; raised sandboxes  
26 and interactive gardens; accessible picnic areas and secluded areas for quiet time;  
27 climbing facilities with special seating; various musical apparatuses, including percussion

1 instruments among others;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

5 ➔Section 1. As a matter of statewide interest and concern, the Senate strongly  
6 encourages all local governments and local public agencies providing playgrounds to  
7 utilize such facilities to the maximum extent possible and, where feasible, provide  
8 playground design, surfaces, and equipment which are usable by both able-bodied persons  
9 and persons with disabilities so as to integrate all persons within such playgrounds.

10 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
11 Resolution to Senator Tom Buford for delivery.