A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Medicinal Marijuana Task Force.

WHEREAS, marijuana has been used to treat a variety of health conditions for more than 3,000 years; and

WHEREAS, 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico now allow the use of marijuana for certain medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, legislation to legalize medicinal marijuana in Kentucky has been introduced during the past seven regular sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2013 Kentucky Health Issues Poll conducted by the Foundation for a Healthier Kentucky, nearly 80 percent of Kentuckians support legalization of medicinal marijuana; and

WHEREAS, despite growing support for medical marijuana, marijuana and its derivatives remain classified as a Schedule I drug by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration; and

WHEREAS, classification as a Schedule I drug makes it extremely difficult to research medically appropriate uses of marijuana and the potential side effects of such use; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has not found that marijuana is safe or effective in treating any medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, marijuana-based medications, such as FDA-approved dronabinol, nabilone, and epidiolex, all of which use purified chemicals derived from or based on those found in marijuana, may represent a more promising course of treatment than the use of the whole marijuana plant or its crude extracts; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky currently has the opportunity to study the mistakes made and lessons learned by each of the 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico that now allow for the medicinal use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly should pursue evidence-based
policies regarding medicinal marijuana;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

» Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Medicinal Marijuana Task Force to study and to make recommendations related to the medicinal use of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

» Section 2. The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to:

(1) Considering expert testimony related to existing scientific and academic research on the potential therapeutic and medicinal effects of the chemical components of marijuana, including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and the health effects of various consumption methods such as smoking, vaping, and ingestion;

(2) Examining current research and development efforts to produce additional FDA-approved prescription drugs derived from or based on the chemical compounds found in marijuana;

(3) Analyzing the potential impact of legalizing medicinal marijuana on overall public health, including appreciable improvements in quality of life and wellness among patients who engage in the medicinal use of marijuana;

(4) Studying the experiences of other states and jurisdictions that allow for the medicinal use of marijuana including but not limited to:

(a) The effectiveness of various regulatory schemes to license, permit, monitor, and otherwise control the production, processing, distribution, and use of marijuana for medicinal or therapeutic purposes;

(b) The impact on opioid prescribing practices, rates of opioid use disorder, and opioid-related overdose deaths;

(c) The impact on the addiction and mental health care treatment system, including addiction treatment enrollment, drug-related overdose incidents, and
(d) The impact on youth perceptions of marijuana and other illicit drugs, as well as child welfare cases and juvenile justice matters involving marijuana;
(e) The impact on the illicit drug trade in marijuana and other illicit drugs, including drug-related arrests, convictions, incarcerations, and other public safety concerns;
(f) The impact on the economy and workforce including employers' recruiting, hiring, and human resource practices;
(g) The effectiveness of various data systems implemented to collect and share information between government entities, the health care sector, research institutions, and the public; and
(h) The impact on state and local government revenue and expenditures; and
(5) Developing policy recommendations concerning the legalization of medicinal marijuana in the Commonwealth.

Section 3. The Medicinal Marijuana Task Force shall be composed of the following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

(1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;
(2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives;
(3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;
(4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;
(5) The executive director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy;
(6) The commissioner of the Kentucky State Police;
The president of the Kentucky Sheriff’s Association;

One representative from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;

One representative from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet;

One representative from the Public Protection Cabinet;

One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in pain management selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;

One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in oncology selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;

One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in neurology selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;

One physician licensed in Kentucky who is certified as an addiction specialist selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;

One faculty member from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health selected from a list of three faculty members submitted by the dean of the University of Kentucky College of Public Health;

One faculty member from the University of Louisville School of Medicine selected from a list of three faculty members submitted by the dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine; and

A pharmacist licensed in Kentucky selected from a list of three pharmacists submitted by the Kentucky Pharmacists Association.

Section 4. The task force shall meet at least bimonthly during the 2019 Interim of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees by December 1, 2019.

Section 5. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
1 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
2 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
3 designate a study completion date.