

1 A RESOLUTION relating to indigenous peoples.

2 WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by the
3 International Conference on Discrimination Against the Indigenous Population in the
4 Americas, a delegation sponsored by First Nations leaders to the United Nations; and

5 WHEREAS, indigenous peoples have inhabited this continent since long before
6 their first contact with European settlers, have shared their knowledge of the land and its
7 resources, and have continued to play a vital role in the development of the
8 Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission was created in
10 2004 and attached for administrative purposes to the Kentucky Heritage Council to
11 promote, in partnership with the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, awareness of
12 significant Native American influences within the historical and cultural experiences of
13 Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation, codified
15 as KRS 2.230, establishing November of each year as "Native American Indian Month"
16 and encouraging schools, clubs, civic, and religious organizations during each November
17 to recognize the contributions of Native Americans with suitable ceremony and
18 fellowship designed to promote greater understanding and brotherhood between Native
19 Americans and non-Native American peoples of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

20 WHEREAS, under KRS 2.230, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
21 shall, prior to the first day of November of each year, issue a proclamation inviting and
22 urging the people of Kentucky to observe Native American Indian Month with suitable
23 ceremony and fellowship, and requiring the Kentucky Department of Education,
24 Kentucky Heritage Council, and Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission to
25 make information available to the people of Kentucky regarding the observance of Native
26 American Indian Month; and

27 WHEREAS, despite Kentucky's recognition of indigenous peoples, there are

1 difficulties with fair treatment of indigenous peoples and inadequate acknowledgement of
2 the historic destruction of our indigenous cultures; and

3 WHEREAS, in an effort to provide a more accurate record of American history, in
4 1990 representatives from 120 indigenous nations at the First Continental Conference on
5 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus
6 Day into an occasion to recognize the contributions and plight of indigenous Americans;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the United States endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the
9 Rights of Indigenous Peoples on December 16, 2010, which declares that indigenous
10 peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories,
11 and aspirations, which shall be reflected through public education and information, and
12 that states should take effective measures, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to
13 combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination as well as promote tolerance,
14 understanding, and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of
15 society;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
18 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

19 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes the second Monday of
20 October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and
21 encourages all citizens of the Commonwealth to acknowledge the historic sacrifices of
22 indigenous peoples and their contributions to the emergence and development of the
23 Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

24 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver a
25 copy of this Resolution to the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission, 410
26 High Street, Frankfort, KY 40601, and the Kentucky Heritage Council, 410 High Street,
27 Frankfort, KY 40601.