A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to assess Kentucky’s preparedness to address the coronavirus and report to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread of the virus in the United States was on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats; and

WHEREAS, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, illnesses from COVID-19 have ranged from mild, flu-like symptoms to severe, including double-pneumonia and other illnesses resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, as of March 4, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have detected outbreaks of COVID-19 in 82 nations internationally, including in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of March 4, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that there are 80 total cases of COVID-19 have been detected in 13 states within the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of March 4, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nine people have died from COVID-19 and resulting illnesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, at present there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19, and the best way to prevent infection is to avoid exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, local and state public health departments play crucial roles in educating the public on methods of preventing the transmission of COVID-19, assessing
the need for implementing precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as
imposing quarantines, closing public places, and canceling public events, and assessing
the ability of local health care systems to respond to treatment needs if COVID-19
spreads to Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Governor Andy Beshear has reported that while there are currently no
COVID-19 cases in the state, public health officials have been monitoring individuals
who meet certain criteria and are also preparing for the possibility of the virus spreading
in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department for Public Health reports that it is working
closely with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to put
surveillance measures in place;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is directed to assess
Kentucky's preparedness to address the coronavirus and report the results of this
assessment to the General Assembly by March 31, 2020. The report shall include but not
be limited to:

(1) Steps for preparing for mass gatherings and large community events;
(2) Precautions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in election polling locations;
(3) Plans to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in communities;
(4) The preparation of public health communicators to prepare local communities for
the spread of COVID-19;
(5) The need for resources for health care facilities;
(6) Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators;
(7) Strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, schools,
and places of employment;
(8) Sources of information for the public and health care providers;
(9) Strategies for travelers, airports, buses, and other public transportation to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

(10) Possible requests for assistance from the General Assembly to ensure Kentucky's preparation for COVID-19.