

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, as of March 4, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control
17 and Prevention reports that there are 80 total cases of COVID-19 have been detected in
18 13 states within the United States; and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, local and state public health departments play crucial roles in
27 educating the public on methods of preventing the transmission of COVID-19, assessing

1 the need for implementing precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as
2 imposing quarantines, closing public places, and canceling public events, and assessing
3 the ability of local health care systems to respond to treatment needs if COVID-19
4 spreads to Kentucky; and

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

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

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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

- 1 (9) Strategies for travelers, airports, buses, and other public transportation to prevent
- 2 the spread of COVID-19; and
- 3 (10) Possible requests for assistance from the General Assembly to ensure Kentucky's
- 4 preparation for COVID-19.