

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to create the Task Force on Economic Effects
2 of Casino Gambling and Cannabis Legalization.

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Supreme Court recently struck down provisions
4 providing for historical horse racing; and

5 WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence suggests the effects of cannabis use are
6 not as severe as once believed; and

7 WHEREAS, the taboos associated with cannabis use and casino gambling are no
8 longer the prevailing will of many citizens in the Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, casino gambling and cannabis have become major sources of revenue
10 for states allowing these activities; and

11 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky faces economic challenges to meet its
12 pension obligations, educational funding objectives, and infrastructure maintenance
13 needs;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

17 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Task Force
18 on Economic Effects of Casino Gambling and Cannabis Legalization. The task force shall
19 investigate and make findings by December 1, 2021, regarding:

20 (1) The economic effects of legalized casino gambling on the tax base and revenue
21 stream of the state, county, and city governments;

22 (2) The economic effects of legalized cannabis on the tax base and revenue stream of
23 the state, county, and city governments;

24 (3) The economic effects of legalized casino gambling and legalized cannabis on the
25 job market in the Commonwealth and the wages of workers;

26 (4) The economic effects of legalized casino gambling and legalized cannabis on small
27 businesses and business opportunities; and

1 (5) The economic effects of legalization of cannabis on incarceration rates,
2 expenditures of the judicial branch, law enforcement, state crime labs, and local
3 governments.

4 ➔Section 2. The task force shall be composed of the following members with
5 final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and approval of the
6 Legislative Research Commission:

- 7 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
8 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;
- 10 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor
11 Leader of the House of Representatives;
- 12 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom
13 shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;
- 14 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;
- 15 (5) The secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, or designee;
- 16 (6) The public advocate of the Department of Public Advocacy's Office of the Public
17 Advocate, or designee;
- 18 (7) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Charitable Gaming, or designee;
- 19 (8) The president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, or designee;
- 20 (9) One representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts selected by the Chief
21 Justice;
- 22 (10) Two representatives submitted by the National Organization for the Reform of
23 Marijuana Laws who reside in the Commonwealth; and
- 24 (11) Two representatives with expertise and background in economics, one submitted by
25 the president of the University of Louisville and one submitted by the president of
26 the University of Kentucky.

27 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet at least five times during the 2021 Interim

1 of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations
2 for legislative action, if any, to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
3 appropriate committee or committees by December 1, 2021. If the task force is unable to
4 obtain sufficient information to complete its objectives, the report shall include a
5 description of the unavailable information, the agencies associated with the information,
6 the challenges presented to the agencies in recording or obtaining the information, and
7 recommendations for policy changes within those agencies that would allow for better
8 documentation of the costs and outcomes associated with the legalization of casino
9 gambling and legalization of cannabis.

10 ➔Section 4. All executive agencies and the Administrative Office of the Courts
11 shall promptly provide necessary data, research, and other requested information to assist
12 the task force in the performance of its duties.

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

17 ➔Section 6. The creation of this task force shall not forestall the General
18 Assembly from enacting statutes authorizing casino gambling or cannabis legalization
19 before conclusion of the task force study.