

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging high schools to offer annual government instruction.

2 WHEREAS, President Thomas Jefferson famously described a well-informed
3 electorate as a prerequisite to a properly functioning democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, a general understanding of how local government functions is critical
5 to understanding the context of actions taken by federal, state, and local governments and
6 is therefore essential to creating a well-informed electorate; and

7 WHEREAS, familiarity with how local government functions may inspire young
8 people to participate in local politics, seek out mentorship and networking opportunities,
9 and become more involved in their communities;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
12 *Kentucky:*

13 ➔Section 1. High schools across Kentucky are strongly encouraged to offer all
14 students at least three hours of annual, nonpartisan instruction on the roles and functions
15 of city, county, and state government. The encouraged instruction may incorporate
16 attendance at a government meeting, a presentation from a state or local government
17 official, or a field trip to a state or local government building. This instruction may be
18 incorporated into relevant classroom instruction or be covered as part of a school or class
19 assembly. Schools should reach out to local youth organizations, such as the Boys & Girls
20 Clubs, to assist in the provision of the instruction. The topics covered should include but
21 are not limited to:

22 (1) The duties, terms, and identity of local and state government officers;

23 (2) Elections, election rules, and voter registration;

24 (3) The relationship between local, state, and federal government with an
25 emphasis on the specific responsibilities of local government;

26 (4) Local and state taxes, including an explanation of how individual and business
27 tax liability is calculated and identification of agencies that are funded by local and state

1 tax revenue; and

2 (5) Relevant topics that are specific to the school's community.

3 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to send a copy of this Resolution
4 to Commissioner Jason Glass, Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard,
5 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 and to Angela Briggs, Boys & Girls Club of
6 Glasgow Barren County, 100 Cheatham Street, Glasgow, Kentucky 42141.