

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requiring mental health professional licensure boards to
2 either enter into an interstate compact or to ease or establish reciprocity procedures so as
3 to increase the mental health workforce in Kentucky and declaring an emergency.

4 WHEREAS, approximately 746,000 adults in Kentucky have a mental health
5 condition and about 113,069 individuals have a severe mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, there is a mental health workforce shortage in Kentucky; and

7 WHEREAS, mental health providers are more likely to practice in urban centers
8 and this causes chronic shortages of mental health professionals in rural areas of
9 Kentucky; and

10 WHEREAS, there are only 350 actively practicing psychiatrists in Kentucky, about
11 eight per 100,000 residents, and to adequately serve individuals with mental health issues
12 there should be at least 50 actively practicing psychiatrists per 100,000 residents; and

13 WHEREAS, due to a chronic shortage of psychiatrists, primary care providers are
14 providing up to 74 percent of all psychiatric care in the United States and primary care
15 providers may not have the training or experience to accurately diagnose or treat
16 individuals with severe mental illness or other mental health conditions; and

17 WHEREAS, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and Certified
18 Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) provide comprehensive mental health
19 and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals and, to provide these
20 services, the CMHCs and CCBHCs must have enough qualified mental health providers
21 to meet the needs of communities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

24 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby directs the following boards to
25 strongly consider entering into an interstate compact with other states, easing reciprocity
26 procedures with other states, or establishing reciprocity procedures with other states to
27 increase the mental health workforce in Kentucky:

- 1 (1) Kentucky Board of Social Work;
- 2 (2) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists;
- 3 (3) Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors;
- 4 (4) Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure;
- 5 (5) Kentucky Board of Pharmacy;
- 6 (6) Kentucky Board of Nursing;
- 7 (7) Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology;
- 8 (8) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Pastoral Counselors;
- 9 (9) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Art Therapists; and
- 10 (10) Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

11 ➔Section 2. Each board shall report to the General Assembly by June 1, 2022,
12 and by June 1, 2023, of any actions taken and any necessary legislative action that may be
13 needed to accomplish the goal of increasing the mental health workforce.

14 ➔Section 3. Whereas, the General Assembly desires to increase the mental health
15 workforce in Kentucky, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Resolution takes effect
16 upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law.