

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the mayor of the Louisville/Jefferson
2 County Metro Government and the Metro Council to form a task force that receives input
3 from all stakeholders, including business and community leaders, to provide any
4 recommendations regarding the statutory framework of the consolidated local
5 government form.

6 WHEREAS, with lessons learned from previous attempts at consolidation, and after
7 a legislative task force meeting many times in Jefferson County, House Bill 647 was
8 passed during the 2000 Regular Session which set forth the statutory framework for the
9 consolidated local government form of government and required a public question on
10 whether or not to merge the city of Louisville and Jefferson County to be placed before
11 the voters of Jefferson County in November 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, on November 5, 2000, the citizens of Jefferson County, the citizens of
13 the city of Louisville, and the citizens of the other incorporated cities of the county voted
14 to merge Louisville and Jefferson County into a consolidated local government; and

15 WHEREAS, on January 1, 2003, the merger of the city of Louisville and Jefferson
16 County officially took effect; and

17 WHEREAS, the merger of the city of Louisville and Jefferson County took the area
18 from being the 65th-largest city in the United States to being the 18th-largest city in the
19 United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the merger of Louisville and Jefferson County has been seen as a
21 significant contributor to attracting businesses to the area given the fact that Louisville
22 and Jefferson County were no longer in economic competition with each other, and the
23 fact that the merger allowed the area to speak with one voice and to have extra flexibility
24 in tailoring incentive packages to prospective employers; and

25 WHEREAS, groups of residents within the unincorporated areas of Jefferson
26 County have expressed desires for increased services, and debate has ensued over how to
27 best deliver these desired services; and

1 WHEREAS, some stakeholders advocate for the annexation of territory by existing
2 cities or the creation of new cities within the boundaries of the Louisville/Jefferson
3 County Metro Government to provide the desired services; and

4 WHEREAS, some stakeholders advocate for the process of petitioning for and
5 establishing service districts which would provide the desired services; and

6 WHEREAS, the many variables arising from legislative proposals that may be
7 unique to this particular legislative session, including those relating to modernizing
8 taxation, combined with the potential of allowing new governments to be created within
9 Jefferson County, raise fears that unintended tax consequences could occur that could
10 negatively impact the existing revenues of the metro government and the services paid for
11 by those revenues;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives and the Senate recognize that the
16 present distribution of governments and government services within Jefferson County has
17 been relatively unchanged for the two decades of the existence of the Louisville/Jefferson
18 County Metro Government, and furthermore wish to avoid any suboptimal consequences,
19 particularly in terms of taxing efficiencies, community life, and economic prosperity, that
20 could arise from fundamental changes to the present governmental distribution in
21 Jefferson County without comprehensive local deliberations.

22 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives and the Senate urge the mayor of the
23 Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government and the Metro Council members in office
24 in January 2023, together with business and community leaders, state Senators and
25 Representatives serving areas within Jefferson County, representatives of areas that are
26 not municipal corporations within Jefferson County, and all other relevant stakeholders,
27 to form a county-wide task force that will examine the present state of the merged

1 government, identify any areas of improvement desired in that form of government, and,
2 after gaining input from the citizens and other stakeholders, provide by November 15,
3 2023, any recommendations for the General Assembly to consider in amending the
4 statutory framework of the consolidated local government form as it presently exists in
5 Kentucky law.