

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing mental health professional licensure boards to
2 strongly consider entering into an interstate compact with other states, easing reciprocity
3 procedures with other states, or establishing reciprocity procedures with other states to
4 increase the mental health workforce in Kentucky, and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

1 increase the mental health workforce in Kentucky:

2 (1) Kentucky Board of Social Work;

3 (2) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists;

4 (3) Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors;

5 (4) Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure;

6 (5) Kentucky Board of Pharmacy;

7 (6) Kentucky Board of Nursing;

8 (7) Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology;

9 (8) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Pastoral Counselors;

10 (9) Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Art Therapists; and

11 (10) Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

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

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