

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission
2 to establish a Workforce Growth and Solutions Task Force to study worker participation
3 in the Commonwealth and identify solutions to support workforce growth.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky has one of the lowest rates of workforce participation
5 among all 50 states; and

6 WHEREAS, workforce participation is declining, and is affecting all regions of the
7 Commonwealth, including both urban and rural counties; and

8 WHEREAS, employers are reporting difficulties in hiring skilled workers,
9 especially in growing counties and regions where demand for skilled workers is
10 significantly outpacing labor availability; and

11 WHEREAS, there are multiple counties in Kentucky with estimated rates of
12 workforce participation that are below 50 percent; and

13 WHEREAS, workforce challenges are affecting Kentucky's economic
14 competitiveness and limiting opportunities for future growth in Kentucky; and

15 WHEREAS, many Kentuckians may be facing barriers to work that serve to
16 prevent or discourage them from participating in the workforce; and

17 WHEREAS, Kentucky and the nation face long-term demographic trends such as
18 an aging population, slower population growth, and higher rates of retirement;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

22 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to create
23 the Workforce Growth and Solutions Task Force which shall study challenges related to
24 workforce participation in the Commonwealth and identify solutions to support
25 workforce growth. The Workforce Growth and Solutions Task Force shall:

26 (1) Study workforce challenges in different areas of the state, including areas
27 experiencing strong demand for workers as well as areas with high unemployment rates;

- 1 (2) Study the different types of challenges that may prevent Kentuckians from
2 participating in the workforce, including but not limited to barriers related to
3 transportation, housing, child care, disabilities, professional licensing, education and
4 training, public assistance and benefits cliffs, substance abuse disorder, and criminal
5 records;
- 6 (3) Study economic and labor force data related to workforce as well as long-term
7 demographic trends impacting Kentucky, the region, and the United States;
- 8 (4) Study workforce challenges and strategies in other states;
- 9 (5) Communicate with employers in the Commonwealth to better understand
10 hiring challenges, and the steps employers and the private sector are taking to attract and
11 retain workers;
- 12 (6) Study public policy proposals recommended by different stakeholders and
13 experts that would support workforce growth and higher rates of workforce participation;
- 14 (7) Communicate with industry representatives to better understand how
15 workforce challenges affect different industries and how industries are responding to
16 these challenges;
- 17 (8) Communicate with economic development and site selection professionals on
18 how workforce challenges affect business investment and expansion and relocation
19 considerations by private sector entities;
- 20 (9) Study different approaches to workforce training, including services offered
21 by public agencies and education institutions, and training strategies being pursued in the
22 private sector;
- 23 (10) Identify ways to ensure the Commonwealth is adequately tracking workforce
24 data, identifying needs, setting goals, and measuring progress in all parts of the state;
- 25 (11) Identify consensus-driven public policy solutions to address Kentucky's
26 workforce challenges; and
- 27 (12) Identify opportunities for public-private partnerships to address workforce

1 challenges.

2 ➔Section 2. The Workforce Growth and Solutions Task Force shall be composed
3 of the following members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the
4 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission.

5 (1) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
6 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and
7 one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a co-
8 chair of the task force; and

9 (2) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
10 whom shall be a member of the minority party, and one of whom shall be designated by
11 the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force.

12 ➔Section 3. The Workforce Growth and Solutions Task Force shall meet at least
13 three times during the 2024 Interim and shall submit its findings, legislative
14 recommendations, or a memorandum to the Legislative Research Commission no later
15 than December 1, 2024. If legislative recommendations are submitted, the Legislative
16 Research Commission may refer the recommendations to the appropriate committee or
17 committees of jurisdiction in advance of the 2025 Regular Session of the Kentucky
18 General Assembly.

19 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
20 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
21 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
22 designate a study completion date.