

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Autism in Education Task
2 Force.

3 WHEREAS, one in 36 eight-year-old children have been identified with autism
4 spectrum disorder, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's
5 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report published on March 24, 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to meeting the needs of
7 Kentucky's growing population of students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly seeks to collect, analyze, and leverage data to
9 inform deliberate, evidence-based, and effective legislation to improve the school-based
10 support and services for Kentucky students with autism spectrum disorder;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

14 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Autism in
15 Education Task Force for the 2024 and 2025 Interims of the General Assembly. The task
16 force shall study and make recommendations to improve the Commonwealth's ability to
17 serve and support Kentucky students with autism spectrum disorder.

18 (1) During the 2024 Interim of the General Assembly, the task force is authorized
19 to meet at least three times to solicit expert advice, receive presentations from experts on
20 national trends, hear testimony from parents, and collect foundational information on
21 autism in education.

22 (2) During the 2025 Interim of the General Assembly, the task force is authorized
23 to meet at least twice to adopt a final report as required by Section 2 of this Resolution
24 and consider the adoption of recommendations to improve the Commonwealth's ability to
25 serve and support Kentucky students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

26 ➔Section 2. The Autism in Education Task Force shall, by October 1, 2025,
27 complete a final report examining the Commonwealth's ability to serve and support

- 1 Kentucky students with autism spectrum disorder, including but not limited to:
- 2 (1) Kentucky's existing public school-based support and services for K-12
- 3 students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in comparison to other states;
- 4 (2) Kentucky's existing public school-based support and services for K-12
- 5 students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in comparison to nationally recognized
- 6 evidence-based practices;
- 7 (3) Funding of school districts to support Kentucky's growing population of K-12
- 8 students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder;
- 9 (4) Pertinent issues identified during 2024 meetings of task force; and
- 10 (5) Recommendations to improve the Commonwealth's ability to serve and
- 11 support Kentucky students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

12 ➔Section 3. The Autism in Education Task Force shall be composed of the

13 following members, with final membership being subject to the consideration and

14 approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

15 (1) Three members of the House of Representatives, to include the co-chair of the

16 Legislative Research Commission's Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children

17 and two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. One of the three members

18 of the House of Representatives shall be designated to serve as co-chair;

19 (2) Three members of the Senate, to include the co-chair of the Legislative

20 Research Commission's Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children and two

21 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate. One of the three members shall

22 be designated to serve as co-chair;

23 (3) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority

24 Floor Leader of the House of Representatives; and

25 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of

26 the Senate.

27 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, the

- 1 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
- 2 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
- 3 designate a study completion date.