

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION relating to the establishment of a Workforce
2 Innovation Task Force to complete a study of current education and workforce
3 development programs and provide recommendations on how to provide effective
4 workforce development programs to facilitate the training and employment of historically
5 untapped workforce populations in the Commonwealth.

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky employers are reporting shortages of employees; and

7 WHEREAS, the global pandemic has exacerbated challenges employers face in
8 finding the talent they need and, as our economy recovers from the pandemic, Kentucky
9 faces a looming worker shortage over the coming decades; and

10 WHEREAS, to address worker shortage, Kentucky will benefit from providing high
11 quality, work-based learning for students and adults; and

12 WHEREAS, work-based learning allows youth and adults to explore new
13 opportunities, build skills, and transition into new career pathways; and

14 WHEREAS, addressing language barriers through the alignment of education and
15 employment can create immediate access to talent for employees; and

16 WHEREAS, these target populations include:

- 17 1. Individuals who are or were incarcerated;
- 18 2. Members of any household with an income that is not more than 150% of the
19 federal poverty level, as determined by the most current federal poverty
20 guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human
21 Services;
- 22 3. Veterans;
- 23 4. Individuals with disabilities;
- 24 5. Individuals who have recently legally immigrated to the United States and
25 reside in the Commonwealth;
- 26 6. Individuals who are English language learners or use English as a second
27 language;

- 1 7. Individuals with low levels of literacy;
- 2 8. Individuals who reside in rural areas;
- 3 9. Individuals who are homeless;
- 4 10. Individuals with training and skills in a particular industry who lack resources
- 5 to obtain required licenses to compete in the workforce; and
- 6 11. Youth; and

7 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has an economic interest in adding talent to its
8 workforce that will benefit the employed individuals, the industries who employ these
9 individuals, and the economy of the Commonwealth as a whole;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

13 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to create
14 the Workforce Innovation Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of current
15 education and workforce development programs and provide recommendations on how to
16 identify, enhance, and expand effective workforce development programs to facilitate the
17 training and employment of historically untapped workforce populations in the
18 Commonwealth. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall:

19 (1) Identify strategies to attract and locate industries experiencing worker
20 shortage;

21 (2) Identify strategies to enhance recruitment and retention of workers in
22 industries experiencing worker shortage;

23 (3) Identify strategies to expand experiential, work-based learning opportunities
24 for adults and youth in the target populations;

25 (4) Identify strategies for closing the digital divide for disconnected Kentuckians
26 to create new opportunities for participation in society and the economy;

27 (5) Study information on current education and workplace development

1 programs, and identify what programs provide resources to the target populations;

2 (6) Gather information on work completed by other groups, states, and the federal
3 government related to worker shortage in identified industries;

4 (7) Make recommendations of additional programs that will address the identified
5 needs of the target populations;

6 (8) Study the pathways for obtaining certain in-demand occupational licenses and
7 international credentials to take advantage of the global pool of skilled workers in
8 Kentucky;

9 (9) Accelerate and expand work that other state agencies have done to integrate
10 new Americans and internationally trained professionals into the workforce;

11 (10) Ensure English language learners have access to work-based learning, job
12 training, and employment opportunities and the support they need for success in a career-
13 aligned English as a second language program and employment with workforce partners
14 and employers;

15 (11) Identify ways to ensure programs are coordinated in a way that maximizes
16 participation for employers and employees; and

17 (12) Accelerate the adoption of career-aligned English as a second language
18 classes into employer and work-based learning programs and training programs for
19 reskilling, upskilling, and next skilling.

20 ➔Section 2. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall be composed of the
21 following members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the
22 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission.

23 (1) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
24 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and
25 one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a co-
26 chair of the task force; and

27 (2) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of

1 whom shall be a member of the minority party, and one of whom shall be designated by
2 the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force.

3 ➔Section 3. The Workforce Innovation Task Force shall meet at least three times
4 during the 2024 Interim and shall submit its findings, legislative recommendations, or a
5 memorandum to the Legislative Research Commission no later than December 1, 2024. If
6 legislative recommendations are submitted, the Legislative Research Commission may
7 refer the recommendations to the appropriate committee or committees of jurisdiction in
8 advance of the 2025 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

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