

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Council on Postsecondary Education to
2 conduct a feasibility study on expanding postbaccalaureate program offerings at
3 comprehensive universities.

4 WHEREAS, postbaccalaureate offerings of Kentucky's comprehensive universities
5 are restricted by KRS 164.295; and

6 WHEREAS, the restrictions on the comprehensive universities have been in place
7 for over a decade; and

8 WHEREAS, certain changes to the postbaccalaureate offerings of a comprehensive
9 university would require action by the General Assembly; and

10 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should regularly evaluate the evolving
11 workforce needs of this Commonwealth, the ability of Kentucky's existing postsecondary
12 education system to serve those needs, and the feasibility of expanding postbaccalaureate
13 offerings at comprehensive universities to better serve those needs;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

16 ➔Section 1. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall meet with the
17 president of each comprehensive university to identify a regional economic or workforce
18 development need that may be addressed by a postbaccalaureate initiative for the
19 comprehensive university that would either expand an existing postbaccalaureate
20 program or create a new postbaccalaureate degree program.

21 ➔Section 2. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall contract with an
22 outside entity to conduct a study on the postbaccalaureate initiatives of each of the
23 comprehensive universities. The council shall study the following and develop specific
24 recommendations for the General Assembly to consider for action during the 2025
25 Regular Session:

26 (1) Each comprehensive university's capacity to expand or create the
27 postbaccalaureate degree program that is the focus of the postbaccalaureate initiative

1 without jeopardizing the university's ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. This
2 evaluation shall include but not be limited to consideration of the recent performance
3 history of each university in the comprehensive funding model established by KRS
4 164.092;

5 (2) The alignment of each postbaccalaureate initiative to the economic and
6 workforce needs of the Commonwealth and the projected ability of the postbaccalaureate
7 initiative to meet or exceed those needs;

8 (3) (a) A potential annual budget for the transition and initial implementation of
9 each postbaccalaureate initiative;

10 (b) The various revenues that the comprehensive university could expect upon
11 implementation of the postbaccalaureate initiative based on conservative and moderate
12 projections;

13 (c) The projected recurring costs of each postbaccalaureate initiative, including
14 retirement and health care for employees;

15 (d) Anticipated tuition and fee charges and projected gross and net tuition and fee
16 revenue for each postbaccalaureate initiative;

17 (e) The projected enrollment for each postbaccalaureate initiative;

18 (f) The projected ability of the comprehensive university to attract high-quality
19 faculty to support each postbaccalaureate initiative;

20 (g) Federal funds that each comprehensive university would access or seek in
21 order to support each postbaccalaureate initiative; and

22 (h) Private funds that each comprehensive university would solicit or seek in
23 order to support each postbaccalaureate initiative;

24 (4) The projected economic impact of each postbaccalaureate initiative; and

25 (5) A proposed implementation timeline for each postbaccalaureate initiative.

26 ➔Section 3. The results of the study and recommendations required by Section 2
27 of this Joint Resolution shall be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by

- 1 December 1, 2024, for referral to the Senate Committee on Education, House Committee
- 2 on Education, Senate Committee on Appropriations and Revenue, and House Committee
- 3 on Appropriations and Revenue during the 2025 Regular Session.