

1           A RESOLUTION urging the Council on Postsecondary Education and the  
2 Kentucky Department of Education, in partnership with the Secretary of State and  
3 education entities, to develop strategies and a timeline for improving Kentucky students'  
4 knowledge and understanding of the constitutional republic of the United States of  
5 America and the democratic processes specified in the United States Constitution.

6           WHEREAS, the United States government has designated September 17 as  
7 Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to commemorate the signing of the U.S.  
8 Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787; and

9           WHEREAS, the United States Congress has mandated that "each educational  
10 institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program  
11 on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by  
12 the educational institution"; and

13           WHEREAS, many students exit their secondary and postsecondary education  
14 without an in-depth understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens under the  
15 United State Constitution; and

16           WHEREAS, education for citizenship is important to help every student evolve into  
17 an active knowledgeable participant in a constitutional republic society; and

18           WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the principle of a  
19 government by the people, as recognized in our foundational documents of the  
20 Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights; and

21           WHEREAS, evidence abounds of steadily increasing disillusionment of the  
22 perceived relevant value of constitutional knowledge to guide citizen navigation of  
23 societal issues and achieve sustainable problem-solving remedies. Analysis and  
24 discernment reveal such positions are expressed by many citizens who demonstrate a  
25 conspicuous lack of this constitutional education, and is manifested in the concurrent  
26 decline in confidence expressed through the rise in public discourse, general  
27 conversation, and behavior that seeks to highlight, reflect, and communicate concerns of

1 whether the government can operate within its constitutionally limited parameters; and

2 WHEREAS, it is imperative that citizens in a constitutional republic have access to  
3 educational resources leading them to a deeper understanding of the United States  
4 Constitution to help those citizens live out the values contained therein, including life and  
5 liberty, through individual leadership roles and responsibilities in both the public and  
6 private sector; and

7 WHEREAS, access to education and resources on the structure and function of the  
8 United States Constitution is indispensable towards empowering each citizen to develop  
9 critical thinking skills and to serve the expressed intent of the General Assembly in KRS  
10 158.645 to create a system of public schools that, in part, allows and assists students to  
11 acquire communication skills necessary to function in a complex and changing  
12 civilization and to understand governmental processes and their impact on the  
13 community, state, and nation; and

14 WHEREAS, students need to be enabled and encouraged to acquire of core of basic  
15 knowledge in social and cultural issues and institutions to empower them to utilize their  
16 understanding of a constitutional republic in a functional perspective, thereby equipping  
17 each with an actionable awareness of the extents and limitations of an individual's rights  
18 and responsibilities within a constitutional republic; and

19 WHEREAS, public schools and postsecondary institutions, as well as their  
20 governing boards and appurtenant organizations, are ultimately responsible for providing  
21 sound and knowledgeable leadership to ensure Kentucky's students leave the Kentucky  
22 education system having been empowered with the essential skills and knowledge to live  
23 a life of constitutionally sound and responsible citizenship;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
26 ***Kentucky:***

27 ➔Section 1. The Senate urges the Council on Postsecondary Education and the

1 Kentucky Department of Education, in partnership with the Secretary of State and other  
2 education entities, to develop strategies and a timeline for improving Kentucky students'  
3 knowledge and understanding of the constitutional republic of The United States of  
4 America and the democratic processes specified in the United States Constitution.

5       ➔Section 2. The Senate encourages the Kentucky Department of Education and  
6 the Council on Postsecondary Education to work with the public primary, secondary, and  
7 postsecondary institutions to review Kentucky students' current level of skills and  
8 knowledge relating to the United States Constitution and our constitutional republic. The  
9 review should include curriculum requirements, assessments of student knowledge,  
10 teacher competencies required in these area, and any other relevant data and information.

11       ➔Section 3. The Senate urges each educational institution within the state to go  
12 above and beyond the minimum federal requirements in dedicating the entire day on  
13 September 17 to educational activities on the United States Constitution and  
14 incorporation constitution education throughout the year.

15       ➔Section 4. The Senate encourages the Council on Postsecondary Education and  
16 the Kentucky Department of Education, or any education institution developing  
17 educational programs on the United States Constitution to utilize the publicly available  
18 resources coordinated by and published on the web page of the United States Department  
19 of Education, as well as resources provided by other entities interested in spreading  
20 knowledge of the foundational documents of the United States.

21       ➔Section 5. The Senate urges the Council on Postsecondary Education and the  
22 Kentucky Department of Education to devise implementation strategies, including a  
23 specific timeline to improve Kentucky students' knowledge and understanding of the  
24 United States Constitution, the inherent democratic processes, and civic engagement. In  
25 the development of these strategies, the Council on Postsecondary Education and the  
26 Kentucky Department of Education are encouraged to incorporate the appropriate  
27 existing state efforts to promote civic literacy.

1           ➔Section 6. The Senate requests that the commissioner of education and the  
2 president of the Council on Postsecondary Education jointly submit a report to the  
3 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate Interim Joint Committee  
4 on Education by July 1, 2025, regarding the current programs within the public education  
5 institutions to comply with the federal requirement of education on the United States  
6 Constitution as well as the implementation strategies to comply and expand these  
7 education programs.

8           ➔Section 7. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
9 Resolution to the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, 100 Airport  
10 Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 and to the commissioner of education, 300 Sower  
11 Boulevard, Fifth Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.