

1 AN ACT relating to Constitution Day.

2 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1787, 55 delegates from throughout the fledgling
3 United States, intent on erecting a government that would stand the test of time and
4 protect the hard-won freedoms secured during the Revolutionary War, gathered at the
5 Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, the document they produced – our Constitution – remains the bedrock
7 of our system of government, one rooted in equality under the law and an unyielding
8 commitment to individual liberty; and

9 WHEREAS, with profound wisdom, the framers of our Constitution divided
10 political power among three separate and coequal branches, and further between the
11 Federal and State governments, ensuring that a government of the people, by the people,
12 and for the people would remain accountable to its citizens, from whom all legitimate
13 political power is derived; and

14 WHEREAS, our Constitution outlines a government that encourages individuals to
15 flourish while still empowering the states to perform necessary functions like protecting
16 law and order and providing essential public goods; and

17 WHEREAS, this revolutionary concept has made and continues to make our Nation
18 the most free and just society in the world; and

19 WHEREAS, the events surrounding the crafting and signing of the Constitution of
20 the United States of America by the delegates of the Constitutional Convention not only
21 have significance for every American, but are also honored in public schools across the
22 nation on September 17 of each year, which is known as Constitution Day; and

23 WHEREAS, we recognize that each generation needs to renew the spirit of
24 America by upholding our constitutional system, honoring its framers and those who
25 have sacrificed to defend it, and embracing the duty we as citizens have to preserve the
26 society it has built; and

27 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the importance of commemorating

1 Constitution Day and teaching Kentucky's youth of the meaning and significance of our
2 Nation's founding documents;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

5 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
6 READ AS FOLLOWS:

7 *(1) All public schools shall observe Constitution Day under this section.*

8 *(2) On September 17 of each year, or one (1) of the five (5) school days preceding*
9 *September 17, one (1) class or instructional period shall be devoted to the*
10 *observance of Constitution Day.*

11 *(3) A Constitution Day program shall provide instruction, in a classroom or assembly*
12 *setting, that at a minimum consists of:*

13 *(a) A timeline of events leading to the creation of the Constitution of the United*
14 *States;*

15 *(b) The contents of the Constitution of the United States; and*

16 *(c) A brief demonstration of how students can locate the text of the*
17 *fundamental American documents and speeches identified in KRS*
18 *158.196(3)(a).*

19 *(4) School districts are encouraged to collaborate with the entities referenced in*
20 *subsection (6) of this section to provide eighth grade students with a pocket size*
21 *edition of the Constitution of the United States at no cost to the district.*

22 *(5) The department shall develop and maintain a web-based resource for*
23 *Constitution Day programming to be provided to all public schools no later than*
24 *August 1 of each year. The resource shall include but not be limited to sample*
25 *lesson plans and activities.*

26 *(6) To develop a Constitution Day program, public schools are encouraged to seek*
27 *advice or resources for programming from:*

- 1 (a) The department's web-based Constitution Day resource, as identified in
2 subsection (5) of this section;
3 (b) The Kentucky Historical Society;
4 (c) The Department for Libraries and Archives; and
5 (d) Civic service organizations including but not limited to the Daughters of the
6 American Revolution, the National Society of the Sons of the American
7 Revolution, and the 917 Society.
8 (7) The department shall encourage schools certified under KRS 156.160(2) to
9 participate in the observation of Constitution Day in accordance with this section.
10 ➔Section 2. This Act may be cited as the Honoring Our Constitution Act.