

1       A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Cemeteries Across Kentucky  
2 Task Force.

3       WHEREAS, Kentucky values all who abide within the Commonwealth and  
4 respects their wishes in regard to their final resting places; and

5       WHEREAS, the task of caring for cemeteries and those interred within is one of  
6 great responsibility, and the upkeep of their grounds should be shown great care and  
7 respect; and

8       WHEREAS, there are cemeteries across Kentucky that have fallen into disrepair  
9 with no knowledge of who is laid to rest, some of whom could be veterans; and

10       WHEREAS, these cemetery owners have not shown proper regard for the men and  
11 women interred within and have abandoned those properties; and

12       WHEREAS, the final resting place of these men and women should be one of  
13 dignity and reverence; and

14       WHEREAS, the General Assembly believes all people interred within the  
15 cemeteries in Kentucky should be shown the respect they so richly deserve and have  
16 earned through their lives;

17       NOW, THEREFORE,

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

20       ➔Section 1. (1)     The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to  
21 establish the Cemeteries Across Kentucky Task Force. The task force shall review and  
22 make recommendations regarding the problem of abandoned cemeteries within the  
23 Commonwealth, including but not limited to:

24       (a)     Conduct a survey of the total number of abandoned cemeteries in Kentucky;  
25       (b)     Review state and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures that address  
26 abandoned cemeteries;

27       (c)     Examine efforts and policy recommendations in other states and

1 municipalities to address abandoned cemeteries; and

2 (d) Consider actions and policies the state should take to combat the problem of  
3 abandoned cemeteries in Kentucky.

4 (2) In the development of policy recommendations and strategies, the task force  
5 shall seek input from organizations and associations whose members address abandoned  
6 cemeteries and the preservation of a person's final resting place and appropriate  
7 stakeholders as determined by the task force.

8 ➔Section 2. The task force shall be composed of the following thirteen (13)  
9 members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the consideration and  
10 approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

11 (1) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate  
12 and one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the  
13 Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of  
14 the task force;

15 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker  
16 of the House of Representatives and one member of the House of Representatives to be  
17 appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
18 shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a co-chair of the  
19 task force;

20 (3) One member from a county cemetery board;

21 (4) One representative of the State Veterans Cemeteries of the Kentucky  
22 Department of Veterans' Affairs;

23 (5) One citizen and one cemetery owner to be appointed by the President of the  
24 Senate; and

25 (6) One citizen and one cemetery owner to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
26 House of Representatives; and

27 (7) One member from the National Association for Black Veterans.

1        ➔Section 3. The Cemeteries Across Kentucky Task Force shall meet monthly  
2 during the 2026 Interim of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings  
3 and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the  
4 appropriate committee or subcommittee thereof by December 1, 2026.

5        ➔Section 4. Provisions of this resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
6 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the  
7 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to  
8 designate a study completion date.