

1       A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to study  
2 the efficacy of planting mint along highways to mitigate motor vehicle collisions with  
3 wildlife.

4       WHEREAS, in 2024, there were 3,406 highway collisions in the Commonwealth  
5 that involved a motor vehicle striking a deer, the highest recorded number in the last five  
6 years; and

7       WHEREAS, each year, the Commonwealth continues to see increased collisions  
8 with deer and other wildlife, which often result in fatalities, serious injuries, and severe  
9 damage to motor vehicles; and

10       WHEREAS, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet conducted a wildlife-vehicle  
11 collision reduction pilot study in central Kentucky that was completed in 2025; and

12       WHEREAS, the initial conclusions of that study found that hunting pressures, road  
13 location, vehicle noise, and adjacent roadway slope are all significant factors to consider  
14 in creating an effective wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation plan; and

15       WHEREAS, Mentha, also known as mint, has been used for generations by farmers  
16 and land managers to deter deer from fields and crops; and

17       WHEREAS, mint could have benefits if strategically planted along highways in the  
18 Commonwealth to deter deer and other wildlife from crossing, potentially preventing  
19 fatal accidents;

20       NOW, THEREFORE,

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

22       ➔Section 1. (1)       The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, in conjunction with  
23 the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is directed to study, examine,  
24 and evaluate if a program to plant mint along highways in the Commonwealth would:

25           (a)       Adequately deter deer and other wildlife from crossing highways;  
26           (b)       Reduce wildlife collisions and fatalities; and  
27           (c)       Have a harmful or positive impact to the natural ecosystem.

1           (2) The cabinet may engage the assistance of the Kentucky Transportation Center  
2 in completing the study required in Section 1 of this Resolution.

3           (3) The cabinet shall present the results of the study required in Section 1 of this  
4 Resolution, including findings and recommendations, to the Legislative Research  
5 Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation and the  
6 Legislative Research Commission by October 31, 2026.