

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Water Resource Regional
2 Infrastructure Planning Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky's water and wastewater infrastructure, including drinking
4 water treatment plants and distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants and
5 collection systems, stormwater management systems, and dams, is critical to Kentucky's
6 public health and safety, economic development, environmental sustainability, and
7 quality of life; and

8 WHEREAS, there are approximately 450 public drinking water systems in
9 Kentucky that serve more than 95 percent of the population, and the majority of
10 Kentucky's citizens are connected to regional wastewater service; and

11 WHEREAS, these systems include municipalities, boards, associations, districts,
12 and investor-owned companies whose structure of governance and regulatory control
13 varies; and

14 WHEREAS, Kentucky's water infrastructure is extensive, and the average age of
15 Kentucky's water systems often exceeds the system's design life; and

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky has made significant progress to preserve and improve
17 access to potable water and adequate wastewater services through regionalization and
18 consolidation of water and wastewater systems; and

19 WHEREAS, the challenges for Kentucky's water and wastewater infrastructure are
20 system age; ongoing use of deferred maintenance; insufficient planning and infrastructure
21 investment; and a lack of technical, managerial and financial capacity, all of which have
22 resulted in water infrastructure failures; and

23 WHEREAS, a comprehensive regional planning framework is needed to identify
24 the least-cost options to address Kentucky's water and wastewater infrastructure needs,
25 avoid waste and duplication of efforts, and conserve the Commonwealth's water
26 resources; and

27 WHEREAS, it is necessary to convene a wide range of stakeholder groups to

1 develop a plan for regional water and wastewater infrastructure development that will
2 most efficiently coordinate state, local, and regional resources to provide the least-cost
3 water and wastewater utility services;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to establish
8 the Water Resource Regional Infrastructure Planning Task Force to:

9 (1) Evaluate and develop legislative recommendations and policy options on how
10 to establish a comprehensive process through which a water or wastewater utility
11 proposing a new infrastructure project can examine all feasible options for the project,
12 including but not limited to capital and operating options, water purchase options, and
13 regional partnerships with other utilities, to determine which option is:

14 (a) The least-cost option for providing their utility service, including
15 consideration of potential costs to residents of the region who are customers of other
16 water or wastewater utilities; and

17 (b) Least impactful to the water resources for the region, including regional
18 treatment and local distribution and collection systems;

19 (2) Identify and assess the current regulatory and enforcement authority of the
20 Public Service Commission, the Division of Water, and the Kentucky Infrastructure
21 Authority to coordinate efforts and resources to ensure that water and wastewater utility
22 infrastructure projects and asset management practices most cost effectively meet the
23 needs of their ratepayers and residents of the region;

24 (3) Review the financial and legal impact of the Geographic Information
25 Advisory Council's geographic information system data collection recommendations; and

26 (4) Identify statutes that would need to be amended to implement policy options
27 and any legal impediments to implementing specific policy options.

1 ➔Section 2. The task force shall have 14 members, with the co-chairs of the
2 committee selected by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives from the appointed legislative membership of their respective chambers.
4 The final membership of the task force, subject to the consideration and approval of the
5 Legislative Research Commission, shall be as follows:

6 (1) Two legislative members chosen by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives and one member chosen by the Minority Floor Leader of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 (2) Two legislative members chosen by the President of the Senate and one
10 member chosen by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;

11 (3) One member representing the Kentucky League of Cities submitted by the
12 organization;

13 (4) One member representing Kentucky Area Development Districts submitted by
14 the organization;

15 (5) The director of the Division of Water within the Energy and Environment
16 Cabinet or his or her designee;

17 (6) The executive director of the Public Service Commission or his or her
18 designee;

19 (7) The executive director of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority or his or her
20 designee;

21 (8) A representative from the Kentucky Association of Counties submitted by the
22 organization;

23 (9) A representative from the Kentucky Rural Water Association submitted by the
24 organization; and

25 (10) An operator representative of the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators
26 Association submitted by the organization.

27 ➔Section 3. The task force shall meet once monthly during the 2026 Interim of

1 the General Assembly, or more often at the call of the co-chairs.

2 ➔Section 4. The task force may submit findings, legislative recommendations, or
3 a memorandum to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2026. If
4 legislative recommendations are submitted, the Legislative Research Commission may
5 refer the recommendations to the appropriate committee or committees of jurisdiction by
6 December 20, 2026, in advance of the 2027 Regular Session of the Kentucky General
7 Assembly.

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