

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Division of Water to provide
2 recommendations and clear guidance on how local governments can more easily access
3 jurisdictional streams and waterways for cleanup after a flood.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a history of flooding and high-water events due to its
5 topography and geographic location, plethora of low-lying waterways, and high average
6 rainfalls; and

7 WHEREAS, between 2011 and 2024, Kentucky declared 20 federal major disasters
8 due to flooding, and Kentucky has five of the top 10 counties in the nation with the
9 highest number of major disaster declarations; and

10 WHEREAS, flooding and high-water events deposit massive amounts of natural
11 materials such as trees, logs, and sediment, as well as construction materials, household
12 wastes, and even vehicles and hazardous materials, into streams and waterways; and

13 WHEREAS, cleanup becomes essential to prevent massive debris jams in
14 waterways, mitigate water pollution, and prevent infrastructure damage to roads, bridges,
15 and water treatment facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, communities across the Commonwealth are resilient and willing to
17 contend with the challenges of cleaning up their waterways; however, the process of
18 gaining permits and working with state and federal agencies can be complicated;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

21 ➔Section 1. The Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division of Water shall
22 prepare a report for the General Assembly that details the process and mandated
23 requirements for accessing waterways affected by flooding for debris cleanup and
24 removal. The report shall identify the federal and state permits required for using
25 equipment and machinery in the waterway, the activities that are prohibited in waterways,
26 any requirements for deposition of debris, and any special considerations when removing
27 hazardous materials. The report shall also include recommendations and guidance for

1 potential legislation to make the process easier and more streamlined for state and local
2 governments, including having a one-stop portal to make permit applications and
3 dedicated staff to help administer permit requests and expedite matters related to cleanup
4 after natural disasters. The report, including recommendations and guidelines, shall be
5 submitted to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate
6 committee or committees by December 15, 2026.