

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Juvenile Handgun Violence
2 Prevention Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and protection of its children and youth is among
4 the most important roles of government; and

5 WHEREAS, juvenile gun violence is a public health issue; and

6 WHEREAS, hundreds of children and teenagers in Kentucky have been injured and
7 killed by guns in recent years, and gun violence increased significantly in 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, ownership of firearms is both a cherished right and a heavy
9 responsibility; and

10 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a large population of gun owners; and

11 WHEREAS, Kentucky has significant rural and urban populations, and both are
12 affected by gun violence; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a significant national discussion underway on issues of gun
14 safety and gun violence; and

15 WHEREAS, public policy is best shaped by bringing together diverse viewpoints
16 and finding common ground;

17 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

20 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Juvenile
21 Handgun Violence Prevention Task Force to study the causes, impacts, and methods of
22 preventing juvenile handgun violence.

23 ➔Section 2. The task force shall comprehensively investigate the causes and
24 impacts of juvenile handgun violence in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The task force
25 shall investigate relevant contributing factors, including but not limited to exploring the
26 following issues:

27 (1) The number of juveniles who currently have access to handguns;

- 1 (2) The number of juveniles who have used handguns to commit violence;
- 2 (3) How juveniles in Kentucky gain access to handguns;
- 3 (4) The number of juveniles who were victims of handgun violence perpetrated
- 4 by other juveniles;
- 5 (5) The motives that caused juveniles to use handguns to commit violence;
- 6 (6) The factors that contributed to handgun violence by and against juveniles,
- 7 including but not limited to social, economic, geographic, racial, ethnic,
- 8 mental, physical, and emotional health, and access to services;
- 9 (7) The warning signs that exist prior to juvenile handgun violence;
- 10 (8) The intervention services that are currently in place and available for juveniles
- 11 at risk of handgun violence in Kentucky and their efficacy; and
- 12 (9) Other evidence-based strategies, services, or legislation that are known to
- 13 prevent juvenile handgun violence and the estimated cost to implement these
- 14 in the Commonwealth.

15 ➔Section 3. The task force shall also review studies and legislative action by
16 other states and the federal government on the causes and impacts of juvenile handgun
17 violence, and prevention strategies.

18 ➔Section 4. The task force shall be composed of the following members, with
19 final membership subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research
20 Commission:

- 21 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
- 22 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the
- 23 Speaker of the House of Representatives to serve as co-chair;
- 24 (2) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the House
- 25 Minority Floor Leader;
- 26 (3) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate,
- 27 one of whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate to serve as co-

- 1 chair;
- 2 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Minority Floor
- 3 Leader;
- 4 (5) Two social workers to be submitted by the secretary of the Cabinet for Health
- 5 and Family Services;
- 6 (6) The commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice, or designee;
- 7 (7) One representative to be submitted by the Kentucky Board of Emergency
- 8 Medical Services;
- 9 (8) One emergency room physician and one emergency room nurse to be
- 10 submitted by the Kentucky Hospital Association;
- 11 (9) Two members representing the public at large, one to be appointed by the
- 12 Speaker of the House of Representatives and one to be appointed by the
- 13 President of the Senate;
- 14 (10) Two members representing Kentucky community-based youth violence
- 15 prevention groups to be submitted by the Children's Law Center, Inc.;
- 16 (11) One representative to be submitted by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of
- 17 Police;
- 18 (12) The chief of the Louisville Metro Police Department, or designee;
- 19 (13) The chief of the Lexington Police Department, or designee;
- 20 (14) The Juvenile Post Disposition Branch supervisor of the Department of Public
- 21 Advocacy, or designee;
- 22 (15) The chief of the Louisville Metro Public Defender's Juvenile Trial Division,
- 23 or designee;
- 24 (16) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education, or designee; and
- 25 (17) One superintendent of a Kentucky public school district to be submitted by the
- 26 Kentucky Association of School Superintendents.

27 ➔Section 5. The task force shall meet during the 2021 Interim of the General

1 Assembly and report its findings to the Legislative Research Commission no later than
2 December 1, 2021.

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