

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Council on Postsecondary Education to
2 conduct a feasibility study on expanding postbaccalaureate program offerings at
3 comprehensive universities.

4 WHEREAS, KRS 164.020 directs the activities of the Council on Postsecondary
5 Education; and

6 WHEREAS, through KRS 164.020(15), the General Assembly requires the Council
7 to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate,
8 baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the
9 public postsecondary education institutions; and

10 WHEREAS, KRS 164.295 restricts the postbaccalaureate offerings of Kentucky's
11 comprehensive universities; and

12 WHEREAS, KRS 164.295 requires action by the General Assembly to approve
13 changes to the postbaccalaureate offerings of a comprehensive university; and

14 WHEREAS, many of Kentucky's comprehensive universities have requested that
15 the General Assembly approve expansion of their postbaccalaureate programs and degree
16 offerings; and

17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should regularly evaluate the evolving
18 workforce needs of this Commonwealth, the ability of Kentucky's existing postsecondary
19 education system to serve those needs, and the feasibility of expanding postbaccalaureate
20 offerings at comprehensive universities to better serve those needs;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

23 ➔Section 1. (1) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall meet with the
24 president of each comprehensive university to identify regional economic and workforce
25 development needs that may be addressed by a postbaccalaureate initiative to expand an
26 existing postbaccalaureate program or create a new postbaccalaureate program at the
27 comprehensive university.

1 (2) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall contract with an outside entity
2 to conduct a study on each comprehensive university's postbaccalaureate initiative and
3 develop and present specific recommendations for the General Assembly to consider for
4 action during the 2025 Regular Session. Each study shall take into consideration the
5 accreditation needs of the postbaccalaureate initiative.

6 (3) The studies shall, at a minimum, include separate studies on establishing each
7 of the following postbaccalaureate programs:

8 (a) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in veterinary
9 medicine at Murray State University;

10 (b) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in osteopathic
11 medicine at Eastern Kentucky University; and

12 (c) Doctoral programs to obtain an R2 "High Research Activity" designation
13 from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at Western Kentucky
14 University.

15 (4) The evaluation of a potential expansion or creation of a postbaccalaureate
16 offering at a comprehensive university shall include but not be limited to the following
17 factors to inform a recommendation to General Assembly on whether to pursue that
18 postbaccalaureate initiative:

19 (a) Consideration of the recent performance history of the university in the
20 comprehensive funding model established by KRS 164.092;

21 (b) The university's capacity to expand or create the postbaccalaureate degree
22 program that is the focus of the postbaccalaureate initiative without jeopardizing the
23 university's ability to fulfill its statutory responsibilities;

24 (c) The alignment of the postbaccalaureate initiative to the economic and
25 workforce needs of the Commonwealth; and

26 (d) The projected ability of the postbaccalaureate initiative to meet or exceed
27 those needs in an efficient manner.

1 (5) Any recommendation for an expansion to postbaccalaureate offerings at
2 comprehensive universities shall include the following information in regard to each
3 recommended offering:

4 (a) A potential annual budget for the transition and initial implementation;

5 (b) The various additional revenues that the comprehensive university could
6 expect upon implementation based on conservative and moderate projections;

7 (c) The projected additional recurring costs, including retirement and health care
8 for employees;

9 (d) Anticipated tuition and fee charges and projected gross and net tuition and fee
10 revenue;

11 (e) Projected enrollment;

12 (f) The projected ability of the comprehensive university to attract necessary
13 high-quality faculty;

14 (g) The availability of federal funds and private funding that might offset the
15 identified costs;

16 (h) The projected economic impact; and

17 (i) A proposed implementation timeline for each postbaccalaureate initiative.

18 ➔Section 2. The results of the study and recommendations required by Section 1
19 of this Resolution shall be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by
20 December 1, 2024, for referral to the Senate Committee on Education, House Committee
21 on Education, Senate Committee on Appropriations and Revenue, and House Committee
22 on Appropriations and Revenue during the 2025 Regular Session.