

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Reed Sheppard, the Southeastern Conference's
2 Freshman of the Year in men's basketball for 2024.

3 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2024, Reed Sheppard, a freshman guard at the
4 University of Kentucky, was named the Southeastern Conference's (SEC) Freshman of
5 the Year in men's basketball for 2024. In addition to his spot on the All-Freshman Team,
6 Sheppard was named Second Team All-SEC; and

7 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard, a 6-foot-2 guard who is the son of former University
8 of Kentucky basketball standouts Jeff Sheppard and Stacey Reed Sheppard, was awarded
9 the honor after a vote of all head basketball coaches within the SEC; and

10 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard became the 11th University of Kentucky player and
11 the first since 2019 to win the award, and the 10th during Coach John Calipari's tenure,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard is the first Kentucky native to be named the
14 Southeastern Conference's Freshman of the Year, continuing his winning streak after
15 being crowned Kentucky's Mr. Basketball just last year following a stellar career at North
16 Laurel High School; and

17 WHEREAS, despite his four-star rating out of high school and his status as a
18 household name in the Commonwealth, Reed Sheppard was just the fifth-highest rated
19 player in his freshman class at the University of Kentucky, often overshadowed in pre-
20 season discussions by his nationally touted teammates; and

21 WHEREAS, even though he largely came off the bench, during the regular season
22 Reed Sheppard averaged 12.7 points and was third in the conference for assists with an
23 average of 4.5, along with a conference-leading 52.6 percent from 3-point range and 2.6
24 steals per game; and

25 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard scored a season high 32 points in a February 27, 2024,
26 win on the road against Mississippi State, and scored 20 or more points in seven outings;
27 and

1 WHEREAS, along with statistical excellence, during the regular season Reed
2 Sheppard was also one of only two University of Kentucky players to appear in every
3 game and was third on the team in average minutes played per game, at 28.9; and

4 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard was an instrumental part in the University of Kentucky
5 Men's Basketball Team's success this regular season, finishing with a 23 and 8 overall
6 record and 13 and 5 in SEC conference play; and

7 WHEREAS, the University of Kentucky Men's Basketball Team will now continue
8 onto the postseason and the NCAA Tournament where they are expected to be seeded
9 among the top teams, and Kentucky fans across the globe will cheer along Reed
10 Sheppard and his teammates in pursuit of the school's ninth national title; and

11 WHEREAS, widely projected as a lottery pick in this year's NBA Draft, Reed
12 Sheppard is expected to excel as a professional basketball player, a true asset to
13 whichever team drafts him when he decides to depart the University of Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, fans across the Commonwealth eagerly anticipate following Reed
15 Sheppard over the remainder of the course of his college career with the Wildcats, in the
16 NBA, and whatever follows retirement; and

17 WHEREAS, Reed Sheppard's talent, drive, and dedication serve as a model for
18 young people across the Commonwealth to strive for greatness in their chosen field, and
19 it is fitting and proper that he be recognized by this honorable body for his numerous
20 accomplishments;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

24 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate join Senator Brandon Storm in
25 congratulating Reed Sheppard upon the occasion of his being named the Southeastern
26 Conference's Freshman of the Year in men's basketball for 2024, applauding his many
27 accomplishments over his high school career, and wishing him the best during the

- 1 remainder of his career at the University of Kentucky, the NBA, and beyond.
- 2 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
- 3 Senator Brandon Storm for presentation to Reed Sheppard upon his visit to the chambers.