

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to
2 develop a Kentucky Women's History Trail.

3 WHEREAS, throughout Kentucky's history, women have made renowned
4 contributions to the growth and strength of Kentucky; and

5 WHEREAS, many generations of women have helped advance the state through
6 economic, cultural, and social adversity, such as Laura Clay, a native of Richmond,
7 Kentucky, who was the co-founder and first president of the Kentucky Equal Rights
8 Association and a leader in the American women's suffrage movement; and Mary Todd
9 Lincoln, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, who stood courageously by her husband,
10 President Abraham Lincoln, while they led our nation through some of the deadliest and
11 darkest days of its history in the Civil War; and

12 WHEREAS, the women of Kentucky have consistently broken glass ceilings and
13 blazed a trail for future women in historically male-dominated fields such as aviation,
14 music, and literature; and

15 WHEREAS, the list of remarkably talented Kentucky women is extensive and
16 includes Willa Brown, a native of Glasgow, Kentucky, who became the first African
17 American woman in the United States to earn a pilot's license and ultimately became the
18 first African American officer in the Civil Air Patrol, the first American woman to hold
19 both a mechanic's license and commercial pilot's license, and the first African American
20 woman to run for the United States Congress; Bobbie Ann Mason, a native of Mayfield,
21 Kentucky, who is a novelist, short story writer, essayist, and literary critic. In 1985, she
22 published her first novel, *In Country*, which was made into a feature film. Her memoir
23 was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and the coal miner's daughter, Loretta Lynn, who was
24 born into poverty in Butcher Hollow, Johnson County, Kentucky, married and left home
25 at 15 years old, and ultimately became one of the most beloved country music legends of
26 all time. These great women paved the way and made it possible for future generations of
27 women to follow in their footsteps; and

1 WHEREAS, women continue to be leaders of social change, business, government,
2 and more; and

3 WHEREAS, the sacrifices these and many other women have made have created a
4 more fair and just society for everyone;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, after consultation with the
8 Transportation Cabinet and all other relevant state and local agencies, shall develop the
9 Kentucky Women's History Trail, which shall encompass all geographic areas of
10 Kentucky and be designated by historical markers. The cabinet shall develop:

11 (1) Criteria for an application process for nominations of accomplished Kentucky
12 women to be honored along the trail; and

13 (2) A system of placing historical markers designating the areas in which each
14 honoree will be recognized.

15 ➔Section 2. The Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet shall appropriate needed
16 funds for this project in the 2025-2026 biennial budget, subject to the approval of the
17 General Assembly.

18 ➔Section 3. The Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet shall report strategies for
19 the implementation of this trail to the Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small
20 Business, and Information Technology by November 1, 2023.