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1	A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to
2	apply for a Medicaid waiver for individuals with severe mental illness and declaring an
3	emergency.
4	WHEREAS, approximately 746,000 adults in Kentucky have a mental health
5	condition and approximately 113,000 individuals have a severe mental illness (SMI); and
6	WHEREAS, individuals with SMI are the only population in Kentucky with a
7	disability that does not have a Medicaid waiver; and
8	WHEREAS, housing is central to recovery for individuals with SMI, but
9	individuals with SMI experience higher rates of housing insecurity and homelessness than
10	the general population; and
11	WHEREAS, without suitable housing, individuals with SMI have little chance of
12	maintaining other resources in their lives, such as supportive social relationships,
13	employment, and meaningful activities; and
14	WHEREAS, temporary housing for individuals with SMI who are discharged from
15	a hospital and need a safe place to stay for follow-up appointments while a more
16	permanent plan is processing is also important; and
17	WHEREAS, employment rates decline with increasing mental illness severity, and
18	individuals with SMI are less likely than individuals with no, mild, or moderate mental
19	illness to be employed after age 49; and
20	WHEREAS, supported employment helps individuals with mental illness obtain
21	and keep competitive employment; and
22	WHEREAS, there is evidence to conclude that supported employment significantly
23	increases levels of employment over the long term; and
24	WHEREAS, a Medicaid waiver will allow housing services and supported
25	employment to be reimbursable by Medicaid, thereby improving access to recovery for
26	individuals with SMI;

Fage 1 Of 2
SJR007220.100 - 1533 - XXXX
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27

NOW, THEREFORE,

UNOFFICIAL COPY 22 RS SJR 72/EN

- Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:
- Section 1. The General Assembly hereby directs the Cabinet for Health and
- 3 Family Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver for individuals with severe mental illness
- 4 to provide for:

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- 5 (1) Supported housing, which may include staffed residences, group homes,
- 6 family care homes, specialized personal care homes, or personal care homes;
- 7 (2) Medical respite care; and
- 8 (3) Supported employment.
- 9 → Section 2. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall report to the
- 10 Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, and Family Services by August 1, 2022, of
- any actions taken and any necessary legislative action that may be needed to obtain a
- 12 Medicaid waiver targeting individuals with severe mental illness.
- → Section 3. Whereas, the General Assembly desires to provide individuals with
- 14 SMI with supported housing and employment, an emergency is declared to exist, and this
- Resolution takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its
- 16 otherwise becoming law.

SJR007220.100 - 1533 - XXXX Engrossed