



# *Kentucky Legislature*

**HCR29**

**12RS**

**WWW Version**

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[HCR 29](#) (BR 947) - [D. Graham](#)

Establish a Kentucky Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and declare it to be the public policy of the Commonwealth..

Jan 3-introduced in House

Jan 4-to Health & Welfare (H)

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION declaring a Kentucky Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as public policy of the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, Kentucky is blessed with an abundance of natural resources for recreation, enjoyment, and the physical, emotional, and education health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's children are becoming less connected with the natural world around them; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that there are considerable health-related, physical, emotional, and educational benefits to playing, exploring, and experiencing Kentucky's outdoor environment; and

WHEREAS, a National No Child Left Inside movement encourages children to reconnect with nature and its outdoor wonders; and

WHEREAS, a non-profit organization named kidsGROWkentucky, Inc. is supported by conservation, health, environmental, and educational professionals, parents, and outdoor recreation and soft adventure outfitters, and is committed to getting Kentucky's kids outdoors; and

WHEREAS, outdoor experience is critical to the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of Kentucky's next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. Increasing outdoor participation of Kentucky's children and young adults is a public policy goal of the Commonwealth. Public institutions in the Commonwealth serving children and young adults should offer, promote, and encourage free play opportunities, outdoor experiences, and field trips to natural areas and venues that provide right-brain learning which stimulates creativity and innovation.

➔Section 2. It is hereby declared public policy of the Commonwealth that children in Kentucky, as a part of their childhood development, have the outdoor right to:

(a) Fish, swim, paddle, ski, wade, splash, or otherwise enjoy a Kentucky stream, creek, river, or lake;

(b) Hike, hunt, bird watch, view elk and other wildlife, and explore Kentucky's natural wilderness areas, parks, trails, woods, and natural habitats;

(c) Bike in safe areas and routes to schools, recreation and park areas, neighborhood stores, and shops;

(d) Live in a community that is safe, attracts people of all walks of life, and has kid-friendly parks within walking distance of their residence;

(e) Go to a school that inspires a culture of learning that allows students to participate in student-driven scheduling, elective offerings, and extracurricular activities; that provides balanced right-brain and left-brain learning venues; that recruits teachers that engage students as individuals; that offers free play opportunities; and that includes and promotes the concepts of No Child Left Inside; and

(f) Assist, advise, and promote access to outdoor areas and opportunities.