

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in recognition of National County Government Month.

WHEREAS, every state in the United States of America uses a form of county government in some capacity; and

WHEREAS, in the days before the creation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the land that would become sovereign territory of the Commonwealth was part of Fincastle County in Virginia, and in 1776, George Rogers Clark oversaw the legislation creating Kentucky County there from; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this genesis, the Commonwealth's very roots were steeped in the county form of government; and

WHEREAS, for many years, counties performed a judicial capacity, as well as an administrative capacity, establishing their utmost importance in the daily lives of their residents early on in the nascent history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of the Judicial Article in 1976, the judicial capacity formerly resident with the county courts was assigned to the Circuit and District Courts, and the county courts focused on their fiscal and administrative duties for the citizens of their counties; and

WHEREAS, the county serves as an interface between the citizenry of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, through the proper assessment and collection of revenues for the Commonwealth, and as a point of contact for receiving revenues from the state and federal government for capital projects as well as for other services which improve the quality of life for the residents of the county; and

WHEREAS, county governments themselves provide inestimable services for their citizens, such as preservation of the peace, protection of persons and property from fire and other emergent and dangerous conditions; the provision of potable water; the collection and treatment of waste; the provision of roads and other transportation infrastructure; the provision of healthcare; protection of the population from criminals

through the provision of houses of detention; conservation, preservation, and protection of natural spaces including the flora and fauna therein; through the provisions of utility services that are vital to the health and comfort of the counties' residents; and promotion of health and recreation through programs and facilities including public parks, libraries, and museums; and

WHEREAS, it must be emphasized that while the county governments provide these services that promote the health, enjoyment, and well-being of the citizens of the counties, the government itself is an abstraction dependent upon the county officials and employees constituting the government; and

WHEREAS, these officials and employees work for the county not only for a living, but in a majority of instances out of a sense of civic duty, and out of a desire to promote the prosperity, health, and well-being of the citizens of the county; and

WHEREAS, in recent times, with the recent downturn of the economy, county officials and employees have been placed in positions where they are asked to keep providing these manifold services with less fiscal resources, and through creativity and earnest contemplation and difficult decision-making, these officials and employees have risen to meet this challenge and have excelled in doing so; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the inestimable services provided at the county level, it is fitting and proper to recognize counties, and their officials and employees for their service; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, the National Association of Counties celebrates National County Government Month in April bringing awareness of counties' roles and responsibilities in governance and in which manner counties affect the daily lives of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the National Association of Counties, the Kentucky Association of Counties works tirelessly to promote the welfare of county governments, and, in turn, the welfare of the citizens of those counties;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Senate joins the National Association of Counties and the Kentucky Association of Counties and the more than 3,000 counties in the United States in celebrating April as National County Government Month. The Senate furthermore urges the citizens of each of the 120 counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to participate in activities hosted by their counties of residence in order to become more aware of the roles and responsibilities delegated to county governments.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in hale and hearty recognition of National County Government Month in April.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Jimmy Higdon for presentation to Denny Nunnelley, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Counties, 400 Englewood Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.