



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 723 OF THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION**

*I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:*

House Bill 723 of the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*House Bill 723 attempts to put an important grant program that houses \$200 million for local communities in the hands of an unconstitutionally-structured commission that does not give the Governor a majority of appointments. The commission created under the bill has the sole power to approve the creation of the grant program itself and to make final decisions on awarding grant funds. Sections 69 and 81 of the Kentucky Constitution require that the Governor play a significant role in the appointment and, if needed, removal of board members that carry out the duties assigned to the executive branch.*

*The commission's makeup is also partisan, as it includes four constitutional officers of one party, but excludes the Lieutenant Governor, an officer from a different party. The Kentucky Court of Appeals recently held legislation that strips the Governor's power to appoint a majority of members to an executive branch board unconstitutional, and Jefferson Circuit Court has held the same.*

*The unconstitutional governance structure of the commission threatens the ability of Kentucky communities to receive funds from this grant program. The General Assembly can rectify this constitutional problem by removing the grant commission from the bill or amending the appointment provisions.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 723.*

This, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

RECEIVED  
4:33pm  
APR 09 2024  
House Clerk's Office  
MBF

*Andy Beshear*  
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Andy Beshear  
Governor