



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
Fax: (502) 564-2517

**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 398 OF THE 2025 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 398 of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*House Bill 398 would make Kentuckians less safe in the workplace and hand over much of the authority to regulate, investigate, and enforce Kentucky workplace safety and health standards to the federal government. In 1972, the Kentucky General Assembly established it is Kentucky's policy to "promote the safety, health and general welfare of its people by preventing any detriment to the safety and health of all employees, both public and private ... arising out of exposure to harmful conditions and practices at places of work." House Bill 398 abandons Kentucky's longstanding policy and Occupational Safety and Health Program by stopping the Commonwealth from adopting or enforcing protections that are more comprehensive than those of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration or U.S. Department of Labor. Kentucky regulations provide critical protections for workers that federal regulations do not provide.*

*For example, under House Bill 398 Kentucky workers would lose important safeguards related to fall protection, exposure to toxic and hazardous materials, high voltage electrical lines, and bulk hazardous liquid unloading. The Commonwealth would not be able to enforce its regulation requiring fall protection at heights of 10 feet and greater, because federal regulations start at 30 feet. This would not protect those like the worker who died after falling from 18 feet and 7 inches above the ground because of the nonenforcement of use of fall protection systems. Under the bill, the Commonwealth could not protect workers like the one who suffered severe acid burns to his face and arms and permanent hearing loss when a battery he was testing exploded and he was not provided personal protective equipment.*

*House Bill 398 will lead to more workplace injuries, with Kentucky workers paying the price.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 398.*

This, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

  
Andy Beshear  
Governor

