

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 757 OF THE 2026 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 part:

Page 378, lines 18 through 27, in their entirety.
Page 379, lines 1 through 10, in their entirety.

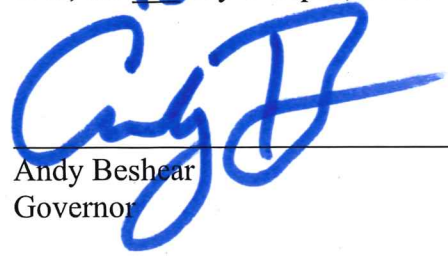
In this part the General Assembly would force the Historic Properties Advisory Commission to – without any input, discussion or vote – place a statue, monument, or object of art of Senator Mitch McConnell in the Capitol Rotunda, even though during this same session the legislature refused to honor a Black woman who has tirelessly served the Commonwealth for nearly 40 years, and a Black man whose lifetime of public service is unrivaled. When the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet proposed naming a new correctional medical facility after Department of Corrections Commissioner Cookie Crews – who has dedicated herself to serving the Commonwealth – the General Assembly cited a public policy against honoring living individuals.

Then, the cabinet proposed naming the facility after the late J. Michael Brown. Brown was first the Black Kentuckian to serve as Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet, former Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, former District Court Judge, former Deputy Attorney General, former Law Director for the City of Louisville, former president of the Louisville Bar Association, former Chair of the Louisville Regional Airport Board, and before all of that a veteran helicopter pilot, paratrooper and infantry officer in the U.S. Army's 82 Airborne Division. The General Assembly again rejected the cabinet's proposal with no justification.

The legislature attempts to use the law to codify blatantly hypocritical application of its own rules to reject great Kentucky leaders like Commissioner Crews and J. Michael Brown and then order a statue or monument of a living man be placed in our Rotunda.

Along with this, House Bill 757 appropriates money in several portions, including requiring the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to pay specific amounts of money to certain entities and for certain purposes. In that part the General Assembly requires the cabinet to distribute \$4,630,200 to the local corrections assistance fund and \$16,383,500 for specified purposes – new appropriations.

This, the ^{13th} day of April, 2026.



Andy Beshear
Governor