



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

Kentucky State Office Building  
501 High Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-2611  
Fax: (502) 564-2517

**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**REGARDING SENATE BILL 251 OF THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

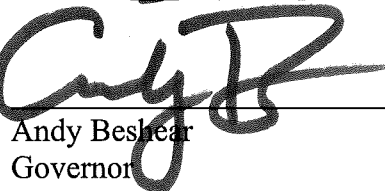
*I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:*

Senate Bill 251 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*Senate Bill 251 seeks to bypass established legal procedures for implementing execution protocols. The United States Supreme Court and the Kentucky Supreme Court have ruled that such procedural safeguards must be in place to determine intellectual disability and ensure the Eighth Amendment is not violated.*

*Senate Bill 251 would therefore create more, not less, litigation at a time when the Department of Corrections is moving closer to satisfying the orders of the Franklin Circuit Court.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 251.*

This, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.  
  
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Andy Beshear  
Governor

Received  
Office of the Senate Clerk  
APR 13 2026  
D. R. HOE2 4:17PM