CHAPTER 164

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## **CHAPTER 164**

## (HB 156)

AN ACT relating to economic development and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- →SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 42.450 TO 42.495 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) The Kentucky Coal Fields Endowment Authority is hereby created as a public corporation, governmental agency, and instrumentality of the Commonwealth, with the perpetual succession and with power in that name to:
  - (a) Contract and be contracted with;
  - (b) Acquire and convey property;
  - (c) Sue and be sued;
  - (d) Have and use a corporate seal;
  - (e) Adopt bylaws;
  - (f) Invest moneys; and
  - (g) Exercise, in addition to the powers and functions specifically stated in this section and Section 2 of this Act, all of the usual powers of private corporations to the extent that the same are not inconsistent with specifically enumerated powers or limitations upon public corporations.
- (2) It shall be the role and duty of the authority to support through funding efforts to diversify the economy of the coal fields within Kentucky.
  - (a) Projects that may be funded shall be non-recurring investments in:
    - 1. Economic development;
    - 2. Public infrastructure, water, and wastewater;
    - 3. Public health and safety; and
    - 4. Information technology development and access.
  - (b) Projects shall be selected based on economic impact, job creation, workforce development, community benefit, available partnerships, project readiness, and the ability for a project to be self-sustaining.
- (3) Seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) of the severance and processing taxes on coal collected annually shall be transferred from the general fund to the Kentucky coal fields endowment authority established in this section. The transfers shall be made in quarterly amounts of one million eight hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$1,875,000) at the same time as the transfers to the local government economic development fund.
- (4) Moneys transferred to the authority are hereby appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section and shall not be appropriated or transferred by the General Assembly for any other purpose. State moneys appropriated that are not spent at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse.
- (5) All property and income of the Kentucky coal fields endowment authority shall be exempt from all taxes and assessment of any nature.
  - →SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 42.450 TO 42.495 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Authority" means the Kentucky coal fields endowment authority;
  - (b) "Board" means the chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer of the authority;
  - (c) "Chair" means the chair of the Kentucky coal fields endowment authority;

- (d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Department for Local Government; and
- (e) "Eligible counties" means counties of the Commonwealth of Kentucky participating in the Local Government Economic Development Fund on the effective date of this Act and those that participated on January 1, 2016;
- (2) The authority shall consist of seven (7) persons, who shall be selected as follows:
  - (a) Two (2) persons, appointed by the Governor, from counties located within the Eastern Coal Field;
  - (b) Two (2) persons, appointed by the Governor, from counties located within the Western Coal Field;
  - (c) Two (2) persons, appointed by the Governor, possessing experience and expertise in finance and investment; and
  - (d) The commissioner or the commissioner's proxy.
- (3) Two (2) members initially appointed to the authority shall have a term of one (1) year each, two (2) members initially appointed to the authority shall have a term of two (2) years each, and two (2) members initially appointed to the authority shall have a term of three (3) years each, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the remainder of the unexpired term. All subsequent appointments shall be for a term of three (3) years.
- (4) The board members are hereby determined to be officers and agents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and, as such, shall enjoy the same immunities from suit for the performance of their official acts as do other officers of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- (5) If any member or officer of the authority shall be interested in, either directly or indirectly, or shall be an officer of, employee of, or have an ownership interest in any firm or corporation interested directly or indirectly in any project funded by the authority, the interest shall be disclosed clearly in the application and shall be set forth in the minutes of the authority, and the member or officer having an interest therein shall not participate in the application process.
- (6) Any person appointed to the authority shall be eligible for reappointment.
- (7) The members of the authority shall elect biennially from the authority's membership the following offices: chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer, and any assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers the authority deems necessary. The commissioner shall not be eligible to hold any of these offices.
- (8) A majority of the members of the authority, determined by excluding any existing vacancies from the total number of members, shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting of the authority shall be required for the purposes of conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes.
- (9) The authority shall prepare bylaws and procedures applicable to the operation of the authority and submit them to the commissioner to be promulgated as administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A.
- (10) Members of the authority shall be entitled to reimbursement for all necessary expenses in connection with the performance of their duties.
- (11) The authority shall meet twice annually and at other times upon call of the chair or a majority of the board to discuss and vote on funding for projects in eligible counties permitted to receive moneys from the authority under subsection (2) of Section 1 of this Act.
- (12) The authority may invest any and all of the assets of the fund in:
  - (a) Obligations and contracts for future delivery of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States or a United States government agency, including but not limited to:
    - 1. United States Treasury;
    - 2. Export-Import Bank of the United States;
    - 3. Farmers Home Administration;
    - 4. Government National Mortgage Corporation; and
    - 5. Merchant Marine bonds;

(b) Obligations of any corporation of the United States government or government-sponsored enterprise, including but not limited to:

- 1. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation;
- 2. Federal Farm Credit Banks;
  - a. Bank for Cooperatives;
  - b. Federal Intermediate Credit Banks; and
  - c. Federal Land Banks;
- 3. Federal Home Loan Banks;
- 4. Federal National Mortgage Association; and
- 5. Tennessee Valley Authority obligations;
- (c) Collateralized or uncollateralized certificates of deposit, issued by banks rated in one (1) of the three (3) highest categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization or other interest-bearing accounts in depository institutions chartered by this state or by the United States, except for shares in mutual savings banks;
- (d) Bankers acceptances for banks rated in the highest short-term category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;
- (e) Commercial paper rated in the highest short-term category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;
- (f) Securities issued by a state or local government, or any instrumentality or agency thereof, in the United States, and rated in one (1) of the three (3) highest long-term categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;
- (g) United States denominated corporate, Yankee, and Eurodollar securities, excluding corporate stocks, issued by foreign and domestic issuers, including sovereign and supranational governments, rated in one (1) of the three (3) highest long-term categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;
- (h) Asset-backed securities rated in the highest category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;
- (i) Shares of mutual funds, each of which shall have the following characteristics:
  - 1. The mutual fund shall be an open-end diversified investment company registered under Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;
  - 2. The management company of the investment company shall have been in operation for at least five (5) years; and
  - 3. The mutual fund shall be rated in the highest category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and
- (j) State and local delinquent property tax claims which upon purchase shall become certificates of delinquency secured by interests in real property not to exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in the aggregate. For any certificates of delinquency that have been exonerated pursuant to KRS 132.220(5), the Department of Revenue shall offset the loss suffered by the Finance and Administration Cabinet against subsequent local distributions to the affected taxing districts as shown on the certificate of delinquency.
- →SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

As used in Sections 3 to 7 of this Act, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Authority" or "KMRRA" means the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority established in Section 4 of this Act;
- (2) "Board" means the board of directors of KMRRA;

- (3) "County" means a county, charter county, urban-county government, unified local government, or consolidated local government;
- (4) "Kentucky Mountain Recreational Area" or "KMRA" means lands on which there is a system of recreational trails, including streams, rivers, and other waterways, and appurtenant facilities, including trailhead centers, parking areas, camping facilities, picnic areas, recreational areas, historic or cultural interpretive sites, and other facilities in Kentucky and designated by the KMRA as a part of the KMRA;
- (5) "Land" means roads, water, watercourses, buildings, structures, and machinery or equipment thereon when attached to the realty;
- (6) "Landowner" means a tenant, lessee, occupant, or person in control of the premises;
- (7) "Participating county" means a county that has qualified under subsection (5) of Section 4 of this Act;
- (8) "Participating landowner" means a landowner who owns land in a participating county and has a contractual agreement with the KMRRA for trail development as part of the KMRA;
- (9) "Recreational purposes" means all-terrain vehicle riding, bicycling, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking, motorcycle riding, rock climbing, fishing, swimming, archaeological activities, nature study, off-highway vehicle driving, pleasure driving, watersports, winter sports, visiting or viewing historical or scenic sites, and otherwise using land for purposes pertaining to recreation or trail activities; and
- (10) "Target county" means Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, or Wolfe County.
  - →SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) The Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority is hereby created and established as an independent, de jure municipal corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth and shall exercise all of the powers that a corporation may lawfully exercise under the laws of the Commonwealth. The authority shall be a public body corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the Commonwealth, established with all the general corporate powers incidental thereto. The authority shall be attached to the Kentucky Department for Local Government for administrative purposes only. The authority shall be authorized for an initial period of five (5) years from the effective date of this Act and may be renewed by the General Assembly. The authority may adopt by laws and administrative regulations, subject to KRS Chapter 13A, for the orderly conduct of its affairs.
- (2) The purpose of the authority is to establish, maintain, and promote a recreational trail system throughout the KMRA to increase economic development, tourism, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. The recreational trail system shall be located with significant portions of the system situated on private property made available for use through lease, license, easement, or other appropriate legal form by willing landowners.
- (3) The authority shall be governed by a board of directors consisting of representatives from participating counties and the Commonwealth as provided in this section.
- (4) The authority and board shall become operational when sixteen (16) target counties complete the requirements established by subsection (5)(a)1. of this section. When at least sixteen (16) target counties become participating counties, the commissioner of the Department for Local government shall notify the county judge/executive of each of the participating counties, as well as the board members described in subsection (6) of this section, that the requirements have been met for the authority and board to become operational. The commissioner shall also establish a date, time, and place for an initial organizational meeting of the board, and shall serve as interim chair of the initial organizational meeting until such time as a chair is elected. The chair shall be a resident of a participating county.
- (5) To become a participating county, a county shall meet one (1) of the following:
  - (a) Any target county may become a participating county upon adoption of a resolution or ordinance by the governing body of the county specifically approving the county's participation in the KMRRA and submission of the adopted resolution or ordinance to:
    - 1. The commissioner of the Department for Local Government if the resolution or ordinance is adopted prior to the KMRRA becoming operational pursuant to subsection (4) of this section; or
    - 2. The KMRRA if the resolution or ordinance is adopted after KMRRA becomes operational; or

- (b) Any county that is not a target county and is contiguous to a target county may become a participating county through an application process developed by the KMRRA. The application shall be approved or rejected by a majority of the board's voting members.
- (6) The KMRRA board shall consist of the following members:
  - (a) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or his or her designee;
  - (b) The commissioner of the Department for Local Government or his or her designee;
  - (c) The executive director of the authority, who shall serve as a nonvoting member;
  - (d) One (1) representative from each participating county, who shall be either:
    - 1. The county judge/executive; or
    - 2. The county judge/executive's designee, who shall be an individual involved with economic development, tourism, recreation, or a related area within the county;
  - (e) One (1) landowner or his or her designee, who shall be selected by participating landowners;
  - (f) One (1) state Representative, who shall serve as a nonvoting member, appointed to an annual term by the Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives; and
  - (g) One (1) state Senator, who shall serve as a nonvoting member, appointed to an annual term by the President of the Kentucky Senate.
- (7) (a) The board membership of each county judge/executive or his or her designee shall:
  - 1. Begin with the county judge/executive's term of office; and
  - 2. End with the county judge/executive's term of office.

If a county judge/executive ceases to serve as the county judge/executive prior to the end of his or her term, he or she shall be removed from the board, and his or her replacement as county judge/executive shall serve on the board for the remainder of the term.

- (b) The term of the landowner member shall be four (4) years, and he or she may be reappointed for one (1) successive term.
- (8) (a) The twelve (12) voting members of the board shall be:
  - 1. Nine (9) of the county representatives or their designees described in subsection (6)(d) of this section who have been accorded voting status under paragraphs (b) to (e) of this subsection;
  - 2. One (1) landowner or his or her designee described in subsection (6)(e) of this section;
  - 3. The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet or his or her designee; and
  - 4. The commissioner of the Department for Local Government or his or her designee.
  - (b) The nine (9) initial county representatives shall be the county judges/executive of Breathitt, Martin, Perry, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Pike, Magoffin, and Floyd Counties or their designees in that order. The first three (3) representatives listed shall serve a three (3) year term as voting members, the next three (3) representatives shall serve a two (2) year term as voting members, and the remaining three (3) representatives shall serve a one (1) year term as voting members.
  - (c) After each term ends, the voting county representative shall be replaced by one (1) of the county judges/executive or his or her designee from one (1) of the target counties whose representative has not yet served as a voting member.
  - (d) After the third year of operation, each new voting member shall serve a term of three (3) years, then step down and let a representative from a county whose representative has not served as a voting member take his or her place.
  - (e) Once representatives from all participating counties within KMRA have each served one (1) term, the rotation shall begin again. The rotation order may vary as long as no participating county has a representative serve as a voting member more than four (4) years more than any other county in a four (4) year period.

- (9) (a) The board shall meet at least once every quarter to elect officers, establish a regular meeting schedule, and perform other duties as may be prescribed in the authority's bylaws. The board chair may call special meetings at any time.
  - (b) Notice of each meeting shall be made in writing and delivered to board members at least seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting date. Electronic mail is an acceptable form of notice of special meetings, so long as it is sent to directors at least seven (7) days before the scheduled meeting date.
  - (c) The presence of a majority of the total voting members of the KMRRA board shall constitute a quorum. Vacant board positions shall be counted against the quorum total necessary for board action.

## (10) The KMRRA board:

- (a) Shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and any other officers as established in the bylaws of the board;
- (b) May appoint temporary and standing committees to accomplish the purposes of Sections 3 to 7 of this Act and shall clearly describe the role, responsibilities, and tenure of each committee so created;
- (c) Shall adopt bylaws for the management and regulation of its affairs and all other matters necessary to effect proper management and accountability of the board. The bylaws shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - 1. The powers and duties of the board's members and the manner and number of officers to be elected from among the board members;
  - 2. The terms, conditions, and manner in which a board member will be removed; and
  - 3. The terms and conditions under which a board member will be paid to attend meetings, if at all, and the extent to which members will be reimbursed for travel and other expenses and any requirements for approval of expense reports, if applicable;
- (d) Shall review and approve an annual budget;
- (e) Shall annually procure an audit of the authority's financial systems, conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall perform the audit. A copy of the audit shall be sent to the Legislative Research Commission within ten (10) days of receipt by the board;
- (f) Shall ensure that all administrative costs for operating the authority are paid from funds accruing to the authority. The authority, its board, and its staff shall incur no liability or obligation beyond the extent to which revenues have been provided under Sections 3 to 7 of this Act;
- (g) May seek administrative and management assistance through written agreement with state agencies, local area development districts, or local governing bodies until such time as the board has secured sufficient funding through grants, loans, fee systems, or any other funding source to hire staff;
- (h) Shall employ an executive director to act as its chief executive officer to serve at its will and pleasure; and
- (i) Shall establish personnel, retirement, and benefit systems through professional programs approved by the board.

## (11) The executive director:

- (a) May, with permission of the board, employ any other personnel considered necessary, retain temporary services, and retain consultants;
- (b) Shall carry out plans to implement Sections 3 to 7 of this Act and to exercise those powers enumerated in the bylaws of the board;
- (c) Shall, along with any staff with responsibilities so delegated by the executive director, ensure that all minutes, records, and orders of the authority and its board are complete and available for public inspection, if necessary; and
- (d) Shall prepare narrative and financial reports of the authority's fiscal obligations and submit these reports to the board at regularly scheduled meetings or as otherwise directed.

- (12) The executive director, all full-time or part-time personnel, all seasonal employees, and all contractual employees, if any, shall be paid from funds accruing to the authority and authorized in a budget approved by the board.
  - →SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) The KMRRA shall:
  - (a) Supervise the design and construction of trail systems within the KMRA and provide all management functions for the trails and for any other property built, acquired, or leased pursuant to its powers under Sections 3 to 7 of this Act;
  - (b) Construct, develop, manage, maintain, operate, improve, renovate, finance, or otherwise provide for recreational and trail-related activities and facilities on designated public lands and private lands of participating landowners who have voluntarily entered into use agreements with the board;
  - (c) Promote the growth and development of the trail system, tourism, and the hotel, restaurant, and entertainment industry within the KMRA and the Commonwealth, through marketing KMRA to enhance local economic and tourism development;
  - (d) Establish agreements with other persons, businesses, agencies, organizations, or any other entity to levy a surcharge on tickets for events, activities, festivals, or functions that are cosponsored with other entities and contribute to the authority's operating revenue; and
  - (e) Procure insurance against any losses in connection with its property, licenses, easements, or contracts, including hold-harmless agreements, operations, or assets in such amounts and from such insurers as the board considers desirable.
- (2) The board's management program shall prioritize contractual arrangements with private landowners to use land for recreational purposes, which shall not diminish the participating landowner's interest, control, or profitability of the land. If necessary to implement a comprehensive trail system, the board may also contract with public landowners through contractual agreements that recognize the primary mission for which the public entity controls and manages the land.
- (3) The board may carry out any of the following to accomplish the purposes of Sections 3 to 7 of this Act:
  - (a) Acquire, own, and hold property, and all interests therein, by deed, purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or lease, or by transfer from the State Property and Buildings Commission, except that the authority shall not acquire property through the exercise of the power of eminent domain;
  - (b) Dispose of any property acquired in any manner provided by law;
  - (c) Lease property, whether as lessee or lessor, and acquire or grant through easement, license, or other appropriate legal form, the right to develop and use property and open it to the use of the public;
  - (d) Mortgage or otherwise grant security interests in its property;
  - (e) Maintain sinking funds and reserves as the board determines appropriate for the purposes of meeting future monetary obligations and needs of the authority;
  - (f) Sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in any court;
  - (g) Make contracts and execute instruments necessary for carrying on its business, including contracts with any Kentucky state agency, the federal government, or any person, individual, partnership, or corporation to effect any or all of the purposes of Sections 3 to 7 of this Act;
  - (h) Accept grants and loans from and enter into contracts and other transactions with any federal agency, regional commission, or state agency for accomplishing the purposes of Sections 3 to 7 of this Act;
  - (i) Maintain an office at any place within the KMRA as the board may designate;
  - (j) Borrow money and issue bonds, security interests, or notes;
  - (k) Provide for and secure the payment of the bonds, security interests, or notes;
  - (l) Provide for the rights of the holders of the bonds, security interests, or notes;
  - (m) Purchase, hold, and dispose of any of its bonds, security interests, or notes;
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- (n) Accept gifts or grants of property, security interests, money, labor, supplies, or services from any governmental unit or from any person, firm, or corporation;
- (o) Establish a regional recreational trail system based upon contracts and agreements with participating landowners. The board may enter into contracts with landowners, and other persons holding an interest in the land being used for its recreational facilities, to hold those landowners harmless with respect to any claim in tort growing out of the use of the land for public recreation or growing out of the recreational activities operated or managed by the board from any claim, except a claim for damages proximately caused by the willful or malicious conduct of the landowner or any of his or her agents or employees;
- (p) 1. Establish a fee-based system of permits, user registrations, or other trail or facility access mechanisms.
  - 2. The fees may be imposed for access to and use of the trails, parking facilities, visitor centers, or other trail-related recreational purpose facilities or recreation activities that are part of the KMRA or as an admission to an event.
  - 3. The fees shall be decided by the board.
  - 4. The KMRRA shall retain and use the revenue from fees for any purposes consistent with Sections 3 to 7 of this Act;
- (q) Promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to govern use and maintenance of the KMRA and any other matters for effective management of the KMRA;
- (r) Cooperate and contract with the regional recreation authorities of Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and other contiguous states to connect the trails in Kentucky with similar recreation facilities in those states; and
- (s) Exercise all of the powers that a corporation may lawfully exercise under the laws of the Commonwealth.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a waiver of sovereign immunity.
  - →SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
- (1) Revenue bonds and revenue refunding bonds of the authority issued under Sections 3 to 7 of this Act do not constitute a debt of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision, but the bonds shall be payable solely from the funds provided for in Sections 3 to 7 of this Act from revenues resulting from the issuance of bonds.
- (2) All bonds shall contain on the face of the bond a statement to the effect that neither the Commonwealth nor any political subdivision of the Commonwealth is obligated to pay the bond or the interest on the bond, except from revenues of the recreational project or projects for which they are issued, and that neither the faith or credit nor the taxing power of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision of the Commonwealth is pledged to the payment of the principal or the interest on the bonds.
  - → SECTION 7. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 148 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

A participating landowner who has a contractual agreement with the KMRA for use of private land as part of the KMRA does not waive any protection granted to the landowner by KRS 411.190.

→ Section 8. KRS 147A.090 is amended to read as follows:

Each district board of directors shall have the power, duty, and authority to:

- (1) Establish such functional advisory committees as may be necessary and advisable. These functional advisory committees shall be organized to meet such guidelines as may be required for federal or state assistance;
- (2) Conduct the necessary research and studies and coordinate and cooperate with all appropriate groups and agencies in order to develop, and adopt and revise, when necessary, a district development plan or series of plans, including, but not limited to, the following districtwide plan elements: goals and objectives; water and sewer; land-use; and open space and recreation. Such plans shall serve as a general guide for public and private actions and decisions to assure the development of public and private property in the most appropriate relationships;

- (3) Prepare annually a report of its activities to the cities and counties within the district, the legislature, and the Governor. The board shall make copies of the report available to members of the public within the district; and
- (4) Comply with the provisions of KRS 65A.010 to 65A.090; and
- (5) Cooperate with the Kentucky Mountain Regional Recreation Authority established in Section 4 of this Act for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and promoting recreational trails to increase economic development, tourism, and outdoor recreation for Kentucky's residents and visitors, not only in eastern Kentucky but throughout the Commonwealth.
  - → Section 9. The following KRS sections are repealed:
- 148.795 Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority -- Purpose -- Membership -- Meetings -- Land use agreements for recreational purposes -- General use permits -- Authority may hold property for public use -- Proceeds.
- 148.796 Strategy to increase recreational activity on private land -- Landowner's permission required for entry on private land.
- 150.091 Enforcement of KRS 148.795 and 148.796 by conservation officers.

Signed by Governor April 10, 2017.