

CHAPTER 84**(HB 355)**

AN ACT making appropriations for the operations, maintenance, and support of the Legislative Branch of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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

➔Section 1. The Legislative Branch Budget is as follows:

PART I**OPERATING BUDGET**

Funds Appropriations: Notwithstanding KRS 48.110, 48.300, and any other statute to the contrary, funds are appropriated to the Legislative Research Commission for the Legislative Branch of government out of the General Fund and Restricted Funds accounts for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, in the following discrete sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary. Each appropriation is made by the source of respective fund or funds accounts to be used for the purposes of the Legislative Branch of government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

	2020-21	2021-22
1. General Assembly		
General Fund	19,020,700	-0-
Restricted Funds	75,000	-0-
TOTAL	19,095,700	-0-

(1) **Legislators Compensation:** Notwithstanding KRS 6.190 and 6.213, the daily compensation provided by KRS 6.190 and the interim expense allowance provided by KRS 6.213 for members of the General Assembly shall remain at the January 1, 2020, level.

(2) **Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission:** Included in the above General Fund appropriation is \$567,700 in fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission. Included in the above Restricted Funds appropriation is \$75,000 in fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission.

(3) **Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center:** Notwithstanding KRS 7B.010 to 7B.090, operation of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and its governing board shall continue to be suspended effective July 1, 2020, and shall remain suspended for the 2020-2022 fiscal biennium or until funding is restored. No funds are appropriated for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center for fiscal year 2020-2021 and fiscal year 2021-2022.

(4) **Pension Benefit Increase:** Notwithstanding KRS 6.521(3), no pension benefit increase shall be granted to recipients of a retirement allowance under KRS 6.500 to 6.577 on July 1, 2020.

	2020-21	2021-22
2. Legislative Research Commission		
General Fund	52,965,700	-0-

(1) **Permanent Full-time Employees:** The total number of permanent full-time employees hired by the Legislative Research Commission with the above appropriation, and not assigned specifically to the House and Senate members of the Legislative Research Commission, shall not exceed 232 in fiscal year 2020-2021. In addition to this number, the total number of permanent full-time employees assigned specifically to the House members of the Legislative Research Commission shall not exceed 19 and the permanent full-time employees assigned specifically to the Senate members of the Legislative Research Commission shall not exceed 10.

(2) **Legislative Record:** Notwithstanding KRS 7.105, distribution of the final issue of the Legislative Record and the interim Legislative Record shall be suspended effective July 1, 2020.

TOTAL - OPERATING BUDGET

	2020-21	2021-22
Legislative Research Commission PDF Version		

General Fund	71,986,400	-0-
Restricted Funds	75,000	-0-
TOTAL	72,061,400	-0-

Unexpended Balance: Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance remaining at the close of fiscal year 2019-2020 shall not lapse but shall continue into fiscal year 2020-2021, and any unexpended balance in any succeeding fiscal year shall not lapse but shall continue into the following fiscal year.

TOTAL - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUDGET

	2020-21	2021-22
General Fund	71,986,400	-0-
Restricted Funds	75,000	-0-
TOTAL	72,061,400	-0-

PART II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Expenditure Authority: The Director of the Legislative Research Commission, under the supervision of the Legislative Research Commission, may expend any of the funds appropriated for legislative operation and administration in any lawful manner and for any legal purpose consistent with the policies and practices of the Commission. No executive agency or statute governing the executive agencies of state government shall have the power to restrict or limit the actions of, or the expenditure of funds appropriated to, the Legislative Research Commission for the Legislative Branch of government.

2. Capitol and Capitol Annex Capital Construction Expenditures: Any expenditure authorized by the Director of the Legislative Research Commission, under the supervision of the Legislative Research Commission, relating to implementation of KRS 56.463(4)(b), or relating to the Capitol Building, and funded by previous or current appropriations to the Legislative Research Commission for the Legislative Branch of government shall not be governed by KRS 7A.010, 7A.120, 45.750 to 45.810, 48.010(16), 48.020, and 48.110.

3. Severability of Budget Provisions: Appropriation items and sums in this Act conform to KRS 48.311. If any section, any subsection, or any provision thereof shall be invalid or unconstitutional, the decision of the courts shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, subsections, or provisions.

4. Duplicate Appropriation: Any appropriation item and sum in this Act and in an appropriation provision in another Act of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly which constitutes a duplicate appropriation shall be governed by KRS 48.312.

5. Priority of Individual Appropriations: KRS 48.313 shall control when a total or subtotal figure in this Act conflicts with the sum of the appropriations of which it consists.

6. Appropriations Revisions: Notwithstanding KRS 48.630(10), no revisions for unbudgeted Restricted Funds appropriations for expenditure shall be allotted or expended that have not been appropriated in any enacted branch budget bill or without the express authority of the General Assembly.

7. Allowance in Lieu of Stationery: Notwithstanding KRS 6.220, in lieu of stationery, there shall be allowed to each member of the House of Representatives the sum of \$250 and to each member of the Senate the sum of \$500. This allowance shall be paid out of the State Treasury at the beginning of each legislative session.

8. Issuance of Employee Paychecks: Notwithstanding 101 KAR 2:095, Section 10, the state payroll that would normally be scheduled to be paid on June 30, 2020, June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, shall not be issued prior to July 1, 2020, July 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, respectively.

9. Salary Adjustments: In each fiscal year, employees of the Legislative Research Commission shall receive a salary adjustment in accordance with the salary adjustment provided to state employees in the state/executive branch budget.

10. Administrative Expenses: Pursuant to KRS 21.540, administrative expenses shall be paid out of an administrative account which shall be funded by transfers of the necessary moneys, in appropriate ratio, from the funds provided for in KRS 21.550 and 21.560.

11. Employee Layoffs, Furloughs, and Reduced Hours: Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, the following process and procedure is established for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, in the event that the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) determines that it is desirable for the Director of the LRC to layoff, furlough, or reduce hours of employees:

(1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Appointing authority" means the Director of the LRC, in his or her capacity as provided in KRS 27A.010, or any agent whom he or she has delegated to act on his or her behalf with respect to employee appointments, position establishments, payroll documents, reemployment requests, waiver requests, requests for certification, or other position actions for the LRC;

(b) "Furlough" or "reduction in hours" means the temporary reduction of hours an employee is scheduled to work by the appointing authority within a pay period;

(c) "Layoff" means discharge of employment subject to the rights contained in this section; and

(d) "Employees" includes all persons employed by the LRC;

(2) Upon an order by the LRC, the appointing authority has the authority to layoff or furlough employees or reduce hours of employment for any of the following reasons:

(a) Lack of funds or budgetary constraints;

(b) A reduction in the agency's spending authorization;

(c) Lack of work;

(d) Abolishment of a position; or

(e) Other material change in duties or organization;

(3) The appointing authority shall determine the job classifications affected and the number of employees laid-off in each classification to which a layoff applies. In the same department or office and job classification, interim and probationary employees shall be laid-off before any full-time or part-time employees are laid-off. For purposes of layoff, "probationary employee" does not include an employee serving a promotional probation;

(4) The Director of the LRC shall approve and implement all actions taken under subsection (2) of this section and no such layoff, furlough, or reduction of hours may begin until such approval has been granted. The Director of the LRC has the authority to determine the extent, effective dates, and length of any action taken under subsection (2) of this section;

(5) In determining the employees to be laid-off, the appointing authority shall consider all employees under the same appointing authority and within the job classification affected. Consideration shall be given to the following relevant factors:

(a) Job performance evaluations;

(b) Seniority;

(c) Education, training, and experience; and

(d) Disciplinary record;

(6) Any employee whose position is subject to layoff, furlough, or reduction of hours shall be provided written notice containing the reason for the action as set forth in subsection (2) of this section at least 15 days in advance of the effective date of the action;

(7) Any employee who is laid-off shall be eligible to apply as a reemployment applicant for positions with the same job classification in the LRC. For a period of two years, a reemployment applicant shall be hired before any applicant except another reemployment applicant with greater seniority who is on the same reemployment list. When a reemployment applicant is removed from a reemployment list, he or she shall be notified in writing. A reemployment applicant who accepts another LRC position, or who retires, shall cease to have eligibility rights as a reemployment applicant;

(8) The appointing authority may place employees subject to a reduction in force;

(9) Furloughs or reduction of hours during a pay period shall not result in the loss of eligibility for any benefit otherwise due the employee;

(10) The appointing authority shall have the authority to promulgate comprehensive administrative regulations governing this section; and

(11) A layoff, furlough, or reduction of hours implemented in accordance with this section shall not be considered a penalization of the employee.

PART III

BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN

The Legislative Branch shall participate in any Budget Reduction Plan or Surplus Expenditure Plan in accordance with KRS Chapter 48, except that obligations essential to the constitutional duties of the Legislative Branch shall be exempt from any Budget Reduction Plan. The level of participation in a Budget Reduction Plan shall be at the discretion of the Director and shall not exceed the actual percentage of revenue shortfall.

Signed by Governor April 13, 2020.