



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 279 OF THE
2013 REGULAR SESSION

I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 88 of the Kentucky State Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 279 of the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing this bill because, as written, the measure is itself vague, and thereby creates impermissible uncertainty for businesses, individuals and governmental agencies as to the boundaries of existing laws. House Bill 279 attempts to strengthen existing constitutional protections for religious expression. However, the use of overly broad and vague terminology would render compliance with and enforcement of the law difficult, and would undoubtedly lead to considerable litigation. As written, the measure calls into question the scope and efficacy of many laws regarding public health and safety as well as individual civil rights. Citizens are constitutionally entitled to clarity in the law. Our businesses, our local governments, our citizens and our religious organizations should not be burdened with the potential consequences associated with this well intended but ultimately flawed legislation.

This the ^{22nd} day of March, 2013.


Steven L. Beshear, Governor