



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MATTHEW G. BEVIN
GOVERNOR

VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 245 OF THE
2016 REGULAR SESSION

700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

I, Matthew G. Bevin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky State Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

Senate Bill 245 of the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

After considerable reflection based on many hours of discussion with constituents, fellow governors and members of Congress, I am vetoing Senate Bill 245.

I do this despite having expressed support for the passage of this legislation earlier this session.

In fact, I encouraged the Senate to move this bill out of their chamber in March, and appreciate those Senators and Representatives who voted to do so – especially those who may not have done so otherwise.

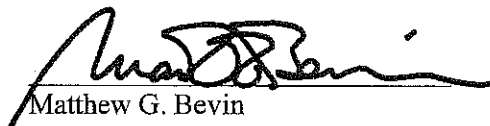
Since that time, however, it has become increasingly clear that there is tremendous opposition and misunderstanding about this bill. The widespread opposition comes from citizens of Kentucky across the entire political spectrum for a variety of different reasons. Good governance demands the courtesy of time needed to better understand and discuss the difference between "REAL ID" as originally envisioned by its authors, and the minimal and voluntary requirements authorized by Senate Bill 245.

We also owe the voters of Kentucky the ability to see what effect, if any, the next Presidential administration will have on this issue.

The fact remains that Kentucky, along with roughly half of the other states, is operating with an extension from a 2005 federal mandate. I am keenly aware of the deadlines imposed and federal penalties used to coerce states to take action.

By taking additional time to study alternative options for the traveling public, and having an additional year to continue the dialogue and clear up any remaining misinformation, Kentucky will be better positioned to enact any updates to our driver's licensing system that may ultimately be needed.

This the 27th day of April, 2016


Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

