



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 219 OF THE
2017 REGULAR SESSION

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 219 of the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing this bill because it would impose a financial burden on the manner and ability of existing state agencies to conduct business. This veto is in no way intended to diminish the importance of the recreational therapy profession. The Commonwealth embraces the opportunity to assist in the provision of quality healthcare services to its citizens by providing for reasonable and necessary regulation of the practice of those professions. I am confident this can be done as part of future legislation.

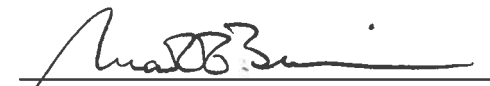
Nevertheless, Senate Bill 219 mandates creation of a new state professional licensing board, the Kentucky Board of Recreational Therapists, but does not appropriate funds to support the initial establishment of the board or its operation during the initial phase of its existence. Nonetheless the board could be required to pay start-up costs for matters such as staffing, infrastructure, drafting and issuance of regulations, identification of and communication with licensees, board member per diem payments, and the myriad other tasks associated with professional licensure. Without an appropriation for these matters, the Department of Professional Licensing will have to absorb the board's operational costs at the expense of the Commonwealth's existing professional licensing boards.

Fiscal concerns do not, however, stop with the board's initial phases. Senate Bill 219 caps license fees at \$150 for an initial license and \$100 for a renewal license, either of which is valid for two years. According to discussion on the House floor, there are 113 individuals providing recreational therapy services in Kentucky. The license fees generated from these 113 individuals, assuming all of them even chose to pay, are unlikely to be sufficient to support the board's financial needs over time.

This bill comes at a time when this Administration is making substantial efforts to reorganize professional licensing boards within the Commonwealth due to recent changes in Federal law and as part of an ongoing effort to increase the efficiency of state government for its citizens. This bill creates a board structure that is incompatible with these reorganization efforts.

This Administration cannot support placing unfunded burdens on regulatory agencies when a definitive need for such a regulatory board has not been demonstrated.

This the 11th day of April, 2017


Matthew G. Bevin
Governor