



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2021

House Clerk's
Office

Capitol Building, Suite 100
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
Fax: (502) 564-2517

VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 3 OF THE
2021 REGULAR SESSION

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 3 of the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing House Bill 3 because of the significant costs that will be incurred by state and local governments. House Bill 3 is the annual attempt to remove cases from Franklin Circuit Court because of legislative dissatisfaction with the duly elected judges and their rulings. Changing well-settled legal procedure for this reason is bad policy, and sets a precedent for changing state law based on who is or is not in certain elected positions. This type of bill was filed nearly every year when I served as Attorney General, an Office that is tasked with defending the Commonwealth in lawsuits. Each time, a fiscal note was requested from the Attorney General's Office. That note – and notes prepared by previous administrations – showed that passage of such a bill would create extensive costs in terms of travel and additional staff. Substantial costs will also be created for Cabinets with significant legal actions such as the Energy and Environment Cabinet, and for dozens of regulatory boards whose determinations are often challenged on constitutional grounds after unfavorable rulings. The procedure for passing House Bill 3 further violated KRS 6.995, as it would change jurisdiction for suits where the Commonwealth (or one of its officials) and a city or county (or one of their officials) are named as co-defendants. House Bill 3 therefore required a fiscal note, which was not secured.

This the 20th day of January, 2021.

Andy Beshear
Governor