



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

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 SENATE BILL 65 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:*

Senate Bill 65 of the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*I am vetoing Senate Bill 65 because it will deprive Kentucky children of essential food assistance, and it will require the Commonwealth to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative costs to do so.*

*By revoking 921 KAR 3:025 and 921 KAR 3:025E, Senate Bill 65 will disqualify “noncustodial” parents from receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) benefits if they owe child support. While Senate Bill 65 is intended to punish parents who do not pay their child support, the real victims of this policy are children who reside with those parents.*

*When this SNAP disqualification was previously in place from 2018 to 2020, 6,011 children lost SNAP benefits. It is simply cruel to take food off those children’s tables to punish their parents, particularly during a pandemic that has increased food insecurity across the Commonwealth.*

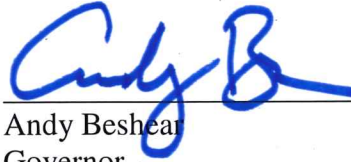
*Senate Bill 65 will in fact cost the Commonwealth more money, even as it takes food benefits from some of the Commonwealth’s neediest children. While SNAP benefits are fully reimbursed by the federal government, the Commonwealth must pay 50% of administrative costs. Identifying and investigating noncustodial parents who are disqualified requires a significant investment of time by Department for Community Based Services (“DCBS”) staff. DCBS estimates that it will cost approximately \$200,000 to implement these changes.*

Received of  
Senate Clerk's Office  
Date: 3/23/21

2:17pm  
D. H. B.

*Moreover, the regulation listed in Section (1)(a) of Senate Bill 65 has been withdrawn, and that withdrawal is not reflected in the bill as passed.*

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.



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Andy Beshear  
Governor