



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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House Clerk's
Office *MBE*

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 HOUSE BILL 314 OF THE
2022 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 314 of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.


I am vetoing House Bill 314 because, by a vote of the General Assembly in Frankfort, it undoes the votes of the citizens of Louisville and Jefferson County to have a consolidated government. In 2002, after years of discussion and debate, the people of Louisville and Jefferson County voted to merge their city and county governments. House Bill 314 threatens the success of that merger by putting millions of dollars of revenue at risk. It may also cause Louisville to lose out on millions of dollars of federal grants, like the \$134 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief that Louisville has used to respond to the pandemic.

If House Bill 314 benefited the people of Louisville, as its sponsors claim, those citizens could vote to support the changes that this bill implements. Instead, this bill imposes changes on Louisville's government, without the consent of the people of Louisville. Indeed, most of Louisville's representatives in Frankfort opposed this bill.

The General Assembly cannot claim to favor local control in their districts while then voting against it in Louisville. Indeed, those outside of Louisville who support this bill should think twice, because it sets a terrible precedent under which the General Assembly could turn around and aim similar disruptive actions at other local governments.

Because it does not respect the right the people to control their local government, I am vetoing House Bill 314.

This, the 6th day of April, 2022.


Andy Beshear
Governor