



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 167 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:

Senate Bill 167 of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

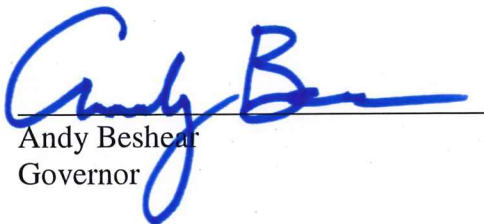
Senate Bill 167 threatens the non-political nature of public library boards by granting county judge/executives and fiscal courts the power to hand-pick public library board trustees. In this way, Senate Bill 167 also threatens the space libraries occupy in our communities as places where everyone is welcome to freely access and exchange information, regardless of political viewpoint.

Senate Bill 167 also allows library funds to be used to lease library property or build new buildings for undefined "educational institutions," rather than remain dedicated to supporting library services. This provision may violate Section 180 of the Kentucky Constitution, which provides that "no tax levied and collected for one purpose shall ever be devoted to another purpose." Regardless, it opens the door for taxpayer dollars, collected for the purpose of implementing library services, to be used to subsidize private, for-profit institutions.

Libraries are the cornerstones of our communities that must be protected.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 167.

This, the 8th day of April, 2022.



Andy Beshear
Governor