

Andy Beshear GOVERNOR

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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY REGARDING SENATE BILL 65 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 65 of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing Senate Bill 65 because injured workers need to receive reasonable and necessary treatment sooner – not later.

Senate Bill 65 nullifies a regulation that would speed-up that process, while reducing costs for the worker, the employer, the insurer, and Kentucky taxpayers. The regulation would reduce the time and expense of the current process by allowing a medically trained physician in the Department for Workers Claims – rather than an insurance company doctor – to render a decision as to whether an injured employee's course of treatment is reasonable and necessary. Either party could appeal that decision to an Administrative Law Judge.

This would benefit injured workers by getting them their medical treatment sooner; it would benefit the employer by reducing the time an injured worker is off the job; and it benefits insurers by reducing medical review and litigation costs.

I am also vetoing Senate Bill 65 because Kentucky teachers should be paid when they have to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure through no fault of their own. Senate Bill 65 nullifies a regulation that allows local school boards the flexibility to provide paid leave for employees who are forced to quarantine due to exposure and who cannot perform their job duties remotely.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 65.

This, the 8th day of April, 2022.

Andy Beshea Governor

