



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR



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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 568 OF THE 2023 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 568 of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

House Bill 568 would merge the Louisville Metro Public Defender's Office into the Department of Public Advocacy by July 1, 2024, without any clear picture of how much state funding will be needed to offset the funding currently provided by the Louisville Metro government. House Bill 568 appears to have been motivated by a desire to retaliate against attorneys in the Louisville Metro Public Defender's Office for their efforts to unionize. While it may be advisable to merge the Louisville Metro Public Defender's Office into the Department of Public Advocacy at some point in the future, it should not be done hastily for the wrong reasons without any analysis of budgetary impact.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 568.

This, the 24th day of March, 2023.


Andy Beshear
Governor