



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**REGARDING SENATE BILL 126 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:*

Senate Bill 126 of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*I am vetoing Senate Bill 126 because it is an unconstitutional power grab by the General Assembly to control Kentucky judges and force Kentuckians to challenge the constitutionality of governmental acts in places where they do not live and in courts they did not choose. Senate Bill 126 violates the separation of powers in the Kentucky Constitution, creates an arbitrary process for selecting the venue of civil actions, and blocks Kentuckians' access to courts. The bill is also unconstitutional special legislation.*

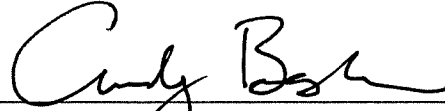
*By allowing automatic transfer of venue merely on request – without any hearing or argument, and without applying any legal standard – in actions challenging the constitutionality of a statute, executive order, administrative regulation or cabinet order, Senate Bill 126 unreasonably infringes on the judicial branch of the Commonwealth. The bill encroaches on the Kentucky Supreme Court's rulemaking authority and completely removes the decision of the appropriate venue from the Kentucky circuit courts. The automatic transfer of venue would also cause delay, and would raise costs for those challenging and defending the constitutionality of these governmental acts, while forcing them to travel all across Kentucky to seek redress from the courts.*

*As debate on the Senate floor showed, Senate Bill 126 is a legislative power grab to control Kentucky courts and block any civil action alleging a law is unconstitutional from being heard in one circuit court: the Franklin Circuit Court. The judiciary – not the legislature – is the only appropriate branch of state government to decide the proper venue of civil actions Kentuckians bring to seek redress from unconstitutional acts.*

Mary Ann Krol  
Deputy Clerk Senate  
10:14am 3/24/2023

*For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 126.*

This, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Beshear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "B".

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Andy Beshear  
Governor