



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 HOUSE BILL 5 OF THE 2024 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 5 of the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

House Bill 5 includes some good parts. For instance, it requires the destruction of firearms used in murders, makes carjacking its own separate crime, and allows the Kentucky Parole Board to require parolees to participate in a specific evidence-based program designed to reduce violence. The General Assembly could and should have put these provisions in standalone bills, which likely would have passed with unanimous support.

Instead, the legislature chose to include these good policies with dozens of others measures in one unwieldy bill that would criminalize homelessness and significantly increase incarceration costs without any additional appropriation.

At the same time, the General Assembly is limiting the ability to pay for excess jail and prison costs by capping necessary government expenses. In 13 of the 18 years from fiscal years 2002 to 2019, the Department of Corrections needed necessary government expenses funding, and in 10 of those years it needed more than \$5,000,000 of necessary government expense funds. Restricting these funds will also delay or eliminate the department's ability to pay county fiscal courts for housing state inmates, which will also increase under House Bill 5.

Despite the tremendous fiscal impact House Bill 5 would have on the Department of Corrections and county governments, the General Assembly provided no fiscal impact analysis with the bill.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 5.

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4:32pm
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House Clerk's
Office

MBF

This, the 9th day of April, 2024.

Andy Beshear
Andy Beshear
Governor