



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 SENATE BILL 19 OF THE 2025 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 19 of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.


Senate Bill 19 requires local boards of education to ensure students of all ages remain seated and silent and make no distractions so that each student may meditate, pray, or engage in other silent activity. The bill has no exceptions, meaning the law will be violated when kindergarteners cannot stay silent in their seats. Further, requiring a seated time of silence does not recognize different faiths that may involve standing prayer. Standing prayer is recognized in different faiths, including some denominations of Christianity. The Bible itself mentions standing in prayer. Senate Bill 19 will also require local boards of education to let students leave school for up to one hours each week for "moral instruction," but the bill does not define "moral instruction." At best, the bill will cause students to miss out on important instructional time. At worst, it is subject to abuse and threatens the safety of Kentucky children.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 19.

This, the 26th day of March, 2025.

Received of
Senate Clerk's Office
Date: 3/26/25

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4:54 PM



Andy Beshear
Governor