



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 245 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 245 of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission consists of nine volunteer members nominated by Kentucky sportsmen and sportswomen, who must be confirmed by the Kentucky Senate. In the past four legislative sessions, the Senate has refused to confirm seven members whom the sportsmen and sportswomen have nominated. In the current legislative session, the Senate has yet to confirm the reappointment of the first ever Black member on the Commission, despite his confirmation to the position in 2022 and renomination by the sportsmen and sportswomen.

Senate Bill 245 prevents Commission members who are reappointed from being able to serve without Senate confirmation. This legislative game-playing is not what the sportsmen and sportswomen of Kentucky deserve. They recommend appointments and reappointments, and Commission members are accountable to them, but the Senate's pattern of denying confirmation of the members they select shows the legislature is deferring to someone besides the sportsmen and sportswomen. The bill and the Senate's refusal to confirm creates a scenario where there could be multiple vacancies on the Commission at one time, while the part-time General Assembly is out of session (most of the year), threatening the Commission's ability to fulfill its legal duties due to not having a quorum. This would also jeopardize the Governor's ability to fulfill his duty under Section 81 of the Kentucky Constitution to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 245.

This, the 21st day of March, 2025.


Andy Beshear
Governor

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Senate Clerk's Office
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