



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 314 OF THE**  
**2026 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 314 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*House Bill 314 is yet another unconstitutional partisan power grab by the General Assembly to remove appointments and authority from a Democratic Governor and send them to Republican officeholders. The bill would undo the Kentucky Communications Network Authority Board, which oversees Kentucky's broadband network that provides internet access in every Kentucky county and allows nearly every state government agency to have communication connectivity, including the Kentucky State Police, universities, community and technical colleges, courts, and state parks.*

*By stripping the Governor's appointment authority, House Bill 314 prevents him from carrying out the powers and duties the Kentucky Constitution delegates only to him. Under House Bill 314, neither the Governor nor any member of his Cabinet will have representation on the Board. House Bill 314 removes the secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet from membership and chairmanship over the Board. It substitutes the chief information officer of the Kentucky Department of Education as the chair – an employee of an independent state agency that the Governor does not supervise. Instead of the current law making six Board members the Governor's Executive Branch appointees, HB 314 leaves the Governor only two appointments from lists submitted by the Kentucky League of Cities and the Kentucky Association of Counties. The bill removes from the Board the secretary of the Transportation Cabinet, the secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development, and the secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, along with the commissioner of the Department for Local Government. The bill then directly appoints the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, and the Treasurer, each Republican officeholders, none of whose offices are served by the Authority's network. None of these other officers are the Chief Magistrate under Section 69 of the Kentucky Constitution, and none have the duty under Section 81 to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.*

*Kentucky courts, including the Kentucky Court of Appeals, have struck down the legislature's previous attempts to strip the Governor of his appointments to prevent him from carrying out his constitutional duties, with those decisions currently before the Kentucky Supreme Court.*

*House Bill 314 also targets subject matter that is currently being litigated in multiple court cases. By fabricating an emergency that does not exist, this bill would immediately take effect if the legislature overrides this veto, and will then immediately interfere with judicial proceedings in violation of the constitutional separation of powers. The new unconstitutional Board could reverse the decisions of the current Board – which the Finance and Administration Cabinet has agreed with – that held the wholesaler company accountable for its conduct that was in breach of its contract. It could potentially settle the lawsuits and allow the wrongdoer company to again be in business with the Commonwealth. House Bill 314 would also limit the Commonwealth's ability to hold that company accountable in court and its ability to negotiate those cases, delaying those cases at taxpayers' costs.*

*The fact that very company spent \$21,811 in January on lobbying for House Bill 314 – the eighth-highest spending lobbyist that month – reveals its intent use the bill to sweep its acts under the rug with a new unlawful board.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 314.*

This, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

  
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Andy Beshear  
Governor