

1 AN ACT relating to nuclear energy development.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority is hereby established and*  
6 *attached to the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research for*  
7 *administrative purposes. The mission of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy*  
8 *Development Authority shall be to:*

9 *(a) Serve as the nonregulatory, trusted state government agency on nuclear*  
10 *energy issues and development in the Commonwealth; and*

11 *(b) Support and facilitate the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem*  
12 *across the Commonwealth in a collaborative manner that:*

13 *1. Enhances the Commonwealth's economy;*

14 *2. Offers energy production and economic development opportunities*  
15 *that are safe;*

16 *3. Protects the environment across the Commonwealth;*

17 *4. Supports community voices, especially in underrepresented or*  
18 *historically impacted areas;*

19 *5. Increases energy education; and*

20 *6. Prepares a future workforce.*

21 *(2) The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority shall be governed by an*  
22 *advisory board consisting of the following twenty (20) voting members and six (6)*  
23 *nonvoting members:*

24 *(a) Seven (7) state government members or their designees who shall be voting*  
25 *members:*

26 *1. The director of the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy*  
27 *Research, who shall serve as chair;*

- 1            2. The secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet;
- 2            3. The secretary of the Cabinet for Economic Development;
- 3            4. The chair of the Public Service Commission;
- 4            5. The president of the Council on Postsecondary Education;
- 5            6. The secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet; and
- 6            7. The director of the Division of Emergency Management;
- 7            (b) Thirteen (13) at-large members who shall be voting members:
- 8            1. A representative from each of the four (4) investor-owned electric  
9            utilities operating in the Commonwealth, designated by the president  
10           of each investor-owned electric utility;
- 11           2. A representative of electric cooperatives, designated by the chief  
12           operating officer of the Kentucky Association of Electric  
13           Cooperatives;
- 14           3. A representative of the Tennessee Valley Authority, designated by its  
15           chief nuclear officer;
- 16           4. A representative of municipal utilities, designated by the executive  
17           director of the Kentucky League of Cities;
- 18           5. A representative of nuclear site remediation services, designated by the  
19           director of business services for the Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership;
- 20           6. A representative for environmental interests, designated by the  
21           executive director of the Kentucky Conservation Committee;
- 22           7. A representative of manufacturers, designated by the president of the  
23           Kentucky Association of Manufacturers;
- 24           8. A representative for commercial interests, designated by the president  
25           of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce;
- 26           9. A mayor of a city, designated by the executive director of the Kentucky  
27           League of Cities, who lives in an "energy community" as that term is

1 used in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-169, and  
2 as it is defined in the latest guidance by the Internal Revenue Service;  
3 and

4 10. A county judge/executive, designated by the executive director of the  
5 Kentucky Association of Counties, who lives in an "energy  
6 community" as that term is used in the Inflation Reduction Act of  
7 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-169, and as it is defined in the latest guidance  
8 by the Internal Revenue Service; and

9 (c) Six (6) nonvoting members:

10 1. The executive director of the United States Nuclear Industry Council,  
11 or designee;

12 2. A representative from a national nuclear educational nonprofit  
13 organization, designated by the chair and confirmed by a majority of  
14 the voting members;

15 3. A representative from a United States Department of Energy National  
16 Laboratory with expertise in nuclear energy policy issues, designated  
17 by the chair and confirmed by a majority of the voting members;

18 4. A representative from a nongovernmental nuclear policy advocacy  
19 organization, designated by the chair and confirmed by a majority of  
20 the voting members;

21 5. One (1) member of the Senate, who shall serve as an ex officio  
22 member, designated by the President of the Senate; and

23 6. One (1) member of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as  
24 an ex officio member, designated by the Speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives.

26 (3) State government members named in subsection (2)(a) of this section and  
27 members of the General Assembly named in subsection (2)(c)5. and 6. of this

1 section shall serve on the advisory board during the terms of their appointed or  
2 elected state government positions. After the initial appointments, all other  
3 members of the advisory board shall serve terms of four (4) years. Members shall  
4 be eligible to succeed themselves and shall serve until their successors are  
5 appointed. A vacancy occurring during the term of any member shall be filled in  
6 the same manner as the original appointment.

7 (4) A majority of the voting members of the advisory board shall constitute a quorum  
8 for the purposes of conducting business. The advisory board shall meet at least  
9 quarterly, or more often at the call of the chair.

10 (5) Members of the advisory board shall not be paid for their service as board  
11 members, and they shall not be reimbursed for any expenses relating to their  
12 attendance of board meetings.

13 (6) The advisory board shall hire a director of the authority who shall possess the  
14 skills and experience necessary to lead the authority effectively, promote the safe  
15 and responsible development of nuclear energy, and achieve the authority's  
16 purposes described in subsection (7) of this section.

17 (7) The purposes of the authority shall be to:

18 (a) Assist interested communities in understanding advanced nuclear  
19 opportunities, including the importance of secure, firm, cost-competitive  
20 power for customers and for economic development opportunities, as well as  
21 the potential for direct and indirect economic benefits associated with the  
22 employment and tax revenue generated from nuclear energy projects;

23 (b) Provide information to the public on the history of nuclear energy  
24 technologies in the Commonwealth, the status of existing nuclear energy  
25 projects within the Commonwealth, and the potential benefits and concerns  
26 associated with nuclear energy technologies;

27 (c) Develop the capacity for nuclear energy economic development in the

- 1           Commonwealth, which shall include providing information to educational  
2           institutions on the types of career opportunities that will be available with  
3           the development of nuclear energy, building strong relationships with  
4           economic development professionals, promoting existing economic  
5           development incentives applicable to nuclear energy development, and  
6           seeking out new grants and other financial support for nuclear energy  
7           development;
- 8           (d) Seek greater clarity and certainty with stakeholders on financial support for  
9           early nuclear site permitting, the process for obtaining a nuclear power  
10           facility certificate of public convenience and necessity, and the recovery of  
11           construction work in progress for nuclear energy projects;
- 12           (e) Work with communities that have previously hosted nuclear-related  
13           activities and other communities facing a transition away from fossil fuels  
14           to empower those communities with the resources and information  
15           necessary to engage with regulators, developers, and decisionmakers on  
16           new nuclear power facilities, nuclear component manufacturing facilities,  
17           and fuel cycle facilities;
- 18           (f) Strengthen engagement with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
19           by reviewing current safety and security practices implemented at different  
20           types of nuclear energy facilities under their purview, promoting the  
21           streamlining of permitting efforts, and supporting the siting of interim and  
22           permanent nuclear storage facilities via the continued use of consent-based  
23           siting;
- 24           (g) Build the organizational capacity to engage and potentially convene a  
25           consortium of stakeholders interested in nuclear energy technologies that  
26           would consist of utilities, environmental advocates, electric cooperatives,  
27           and major industrial companies in order to share best practices, including

1           how to share risk associated with developing and constructing new nuclear  
2           power plants within the Commonwealth;

3           (h) Engage with the United States Department of Energy National Laboratories  
4           and private companies on efforts to develop deployable technologies to  
5           reprocess or recycle spent nuclear fuel; and

6           (i) Maintain awareness of potential events that could initiate or accelerate the  
7           development of new nuclear energy technologies within the Commonwealth  
8           to allow the public to benefit from these projects.

9           (8) The authority, with the approval of the advisory board, shall:

10           (a) Propose and adopt bylaws for the management and operation of the  
11           authority;

12           (b) Develop and adopt a strategic plan for carrying out the purposes of the  
13           authority described in subsection (7) of this section;

14           (c) Create and update at least once every two (2) years a nuclear energy  
15           economic impact analysis for the Commonwealth,

16           (d) Employ necessary staff to carry out the functions of the authority; and

17           (e) By December 1, 2025, and each December 1 thereafter, submit a report to  
18           the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the  
19           Interim Joint Committees on Natural Resources and Energy,  
20           Appropriations and Revenue, and Economic Development and Workforce  
21           Investment providing a summary of the authority's activities and  
22           achievements since its last report and offering recommendations for the  
23           support and expansion of the nuclear energy ecosystem in the  
24           Commonwealth.

25           ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO  
26           READ AS FOLLOWS:

27           (1) The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority, with the approval of its

1 advisory board, shall develop and adopt criteria for awarding a nuclear-ready  
 2 community designation to demonstrate a community's readiness to welcome  
 3 nuclear energy-related development. The criteria to attain the designation shall  
 4 include but not be limited to:

5 (a) The holding of local public educational meetings to educate the community  
 6 on advanced nuclear energy technologies, the nuclear ecosystem, and the  
 7 role that nuclear energy-related development could play in the community;

8 (b) The availability of sites within the community that have been recognized by  
 9 the Cabinet for Economic Development as being suitable for nuclear  
 10 energy-related projects; and

11 (c) The adoption of resolutions from the county and all cities in the county or a  
 12 successful county ballot initiative declaring the community's readiness for  
 13 nuclear energy-related projects to be developed and sited there.

14 (2) Communities may voluntarily apply to the Kentucky Nuclear Energy  
 15 Development Authority for a nuclear-ready community designation in the form  
 16 and manner as the authority may require, and the authority shall evaluate the  
 17 application and award the designation based on the criteria established under  
 18 subsection (1) of this section.

19 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF SUBCHAPTER 12 OF KRS CHAPTER  
 20 154 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

21 (1) The Cabinet for Economic Development shall create and implement a financial  
 22 assistance program for the development and location of nuclear energy-related  
 23 projects to support the entire nuclear energy ecosystem in the Commonwealth,  
 24 including utility and private sector economic development activities. The nuclear  
 25 energy ecosystem includes but is not limited to:

26 (a) The nuclear fuel cycle, which includes fuel conversion, enrichment, and  
 27 fabrication, as well as potential future spent fuel recycling and

- 1            reprocessing;  
2            (b) Reactor design and component manufacturing;  
3            (c) Component supply chain manufacturing and distribution;  
4            (d) Facility siting and development;  
5            (e) Radioisotope production;  
6            (f) Facility operation and maintenance;  
7            (g) Decommissioning waste storage, transport, and management; and  
8            (h) End uses of nuclear energy and co-products.

9            (2) The cabinet, in consultation with the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development  
10           Authority established in Section 1 of this Act, shall verify and process eligible  
11           financial assistance requests for nuclear energy-related projects under the grant  
12           program, similar to the application, approval, and oversight process for the  
13           economic development fund program outlined in KRS 154.12-100. The authority  
14           shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter  
15           13A to effectuate this section.

16           ➔Section 4. Members named to the advisory board of the Kentucky Nuclear  
17 Energy Development Authority in subsection (2)(b) of Section 1 of this Act shall serve  
18 initial terms of three years. Members named to the advisory board in subsection (2)(c)1.  
19 to 4. of Section 1 of this Act shall serve initial terms of two years.

20           ➔Section 5. The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority shall conduct  
21 a study to identify the workforce and educational needs to develop and support the  
22 nuclear ecosystem in the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development  
23 Authority shall submit the findings of the study to the Governor and to the Legislative  
24 Research Commission on or before December 1, 2024.

25           ➔Section 6. The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority shall contract  
26 for services to produce a site suitability study to identify the best potential locations for  
27 nuclear reactors and other facilities related to the nuclear ecosystem in the



1 Commonwealth. The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority shall submit the  
2 findings of the study to the Governor and to the Legislative Research Commission on or  
3 before December 1, 2025.

4       ➔Section 7. The Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority shall contract  
5 for services to develop and implement an education and marketing plan to educate the  
6 public on modern nuclear energy technology and to provide information on the potential  
7 benefits of nuclear power generation and other applications of nuclear energy  
8 technologies.