

1 AN ACT relating to the presentation of ceremonial checks of taxpayer funds and
2 declaring an emergency.

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

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 11A IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) As used in this section:*

7 *(a) "Ceremonial check" means any physical or digital representation of*
8 *taxpayer dollars being allocated, awarded, or spent that is used for publicity,*
9 *promotional, or ceremonial purposes; and*

10 *(b) "Executive branch official" means the Governor, Attorney General,*
11 *Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts, Secretary of State, Commissioner of*
12 *Agriculture, or any agency head, commissioner, or representative of an*
13 *executive branch agency.*

14 *(2) A executive branch official shall not present, display, or distribute a ceremonial*
15 *check without the express written consent of both the President of the Senate and*
16 *the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The written consent shall be issued*
17 *only upon review and approval of the specific allocation of funds, ensuring*
18 *transparency and legislative oversight.*

19 *(3) Any ceremonial check presented without proper authorization under subsection*
20 *(2) of this subsection shall be considered a violation of this section. Any executive*
21 *branch official found in violation is subject to the following penalties:*

22 *(a) A fine of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;*

23 *(b) Public censure by the General Assembly; and*

24 *(c) Referral to the appropriate ethics commission for further investigation.*

25 *(4) The Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission shall have the authority to enforce*
26 *compliance and investigate complaints related to unauthorized presentations of*
27 *ceremonial checks under this section.*

1 ➔Section 2. The purpose of Section 1 of this Act is to ensure legislative oversight
2 and prevent unauthorized use of taxpayer funds for political or promotional purposes by
3 requiring approval from the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives before any executive branch official presents a ceremonial check
5 representing state expenditures.

6 ➔Section 3. Whereas it is critical to prevent unauthorized use of taxpayer funds,
7 an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval
8 by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.