

1 AN ACT relating to communications with elected officials.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 61 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) A public entity, including but not limited to state agencies, public universities,*  
6 *public schools, and any other government-funded program, shall not require,*  
7 *compel, or incentivize any program participant, student, employee, contractor, or*  
8 *recipient of public funds to contact, lobby, or otherwise communicate with an*  
9 *elected official for the purpose of advocating for a specific policy, legislation, or*  
10 *political agenda.*

11 *(2) A public entity shall not condition participation in any program, receipt of any*  
12 *benefit, or evaluation of performance on an individual's willingness to engage in*  
13 *political advocacy or communication with elected officials.*

14 *(3) This section shall not be construed to prohibit:*

15 *(a) The teaching of civics, government, or public policy in an educational*  
16 *setting, provided that participation in political advocacy or contacting*  
17 *elected officials is voluntary and not a requirement for a grade or program*  
18 *completion;*

19 *(b) Any individual from voluntarily expressing their personal views or engaging*  
20 *in communication with elected officials; or*

21 *(c) Public employees or officials from providing, in a content neutral manner,*  
22 *information about legislative processes or how to contact elected*  
23 *representatives.*

24 *(4) A person who believes he or she has been compelled or coerced in violation of*  
25 *this section may bring a civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the*  
26 *Circuit Court of the county in which the violation occurred.*

27 *(5) A public entity found to have violated this section shall be subject to penalties,*

1        *including but not limited to loss of state funding and disciplinary action for any*  
2        *responsible officials.*