

1 AN ACT relating to student housing.

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) As used in this section:*

6 *(a) "Institution" means a public postsecondary education institution or the*
7 *entity designated by a public postsecondary education institution to manage*
8 *student housing; and*

9 *(b) "Student housing" means a facility owned, leased, contracted, occupied, or*
10 *operated by an institution that is used to provide residential*
11 *accommodations to students of a public postsecondary education institution.*

12 *(2) Beginning with the 2027–2028 academic year, an institution that maintains a*
13 *requirement for designated students to reside in student housing shall:*

14 *(a) Establish a process through which a student may request an exemption*
15 *from a student housing requirement;*

16 *(b) Provide an exemption to a student who:*

17 *1. Is a current member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a state*
18 *National Guard, or a reserve component; or*

19 *2. Has served in the Armed Forces of the United States, a state National*
20 *Guard, or a reserve component and was discharged or released*
21 *therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable;*

22 *(c) Create and make publicly available a website containing the general criteria*
23 *and procedures used to evaluate requests for exemption from student*
24 *housing requirements. By August 1, 2026, the website, its Uniform*
25 *Resource Locator (URL), Quick Response (QR) code, or similar resource to*
26 *identify the website address shall be posted in a prominent location:*

27 *1. Inside the institution's student housing office;*

- 1 2. In the institution's student handbook;
- 2 3. At or near the beginning of the student housing application; and
- 3 4. On the institution's website in close proximity to each reference to the
- 4 student housing requirement; and
- 5 (d) Provide a reasonable and timely review process for students seeking
- 6 consideration or appeal of exemption determinations.
- 7 (3) This section shall not be construed to prohibit an institution from:
- 8 (a) Establishing or enforcing reasonable student housing requirements or from
- 9 determining the criteria and conditions under which exemptions may be
- 10 granted; or
- 11 (b) Requiring a student who is the beneficiary of an institutional or endowment
- 12 scholarship to reside in student housing as a condition of the scholarship. A
- 13 requirement under this paragraph shall not apply to a student who:
- 14 1. Is a current member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a state
- 15 National Guard, or a reserve component; or
- 16 2. Has served in the Armed Forces of the United States, Reserves, a state
- 17 National Guard, or a reserve component and was discharged or
- 18 released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

19 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO

20 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 21 (1) A student who is enrolled at an institution, is a current member of the Armed
- 22 Forces of the United States, a state National Guard, or a reserve component and
- 23 has received military orders that would interrupt the student's attendance at the
- 24 institution shall have the opportunity to:
- 25 (a) Be temporarily absent from the institution, to the extent possible; or
- 26 (b) Withdraw from the institution;
- 27 without termination fees or penalties.

1 (2) A student whose military orders are accommodated in accordance with
 2 subsection (1)(a) of this section shall:

3 (a) Not be responsible for any financial obligations accrued for the academic
 4 semester during the time the student is absent; and

5 (b) Be refunded a prorated amount of the institutional costs previously paid for
 6 the time the student is absent.

7 (3) A student who withdraws from an institution in accordance with subsection (1)(b)
 8 of this section shall:

9 (a) Not be responsible for any unpaid financial obligations associated with the
 10 academic semester in which the student withdrew; and

11 (b) Be refunded:

12 1. All tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester; and

13 2. A prorated amount of the student's previously paid student housing
 14 and meal plan costs occurring after the day the student withdrew.

15 ➔Section 3. (1) Each public postsecondary education institution shall submit
 16 to the Council on Postsecondary Education for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic
 17 years the following information in each year:

18 (a) The number of students who requested an exemption from a student housing
 19 requirement in accordance with Section 1 of this Act; and

20 (b) The number of those requests approved or denied, including reason for denial.

21 (2) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall compile the information submitted
 22 by institutions under subsection (1) of this section and submit a report to the
 23 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on
 24 Education by July 1, 2028.