

1 AN ACT making appropriations for the operations, maintenance, and support of the
2 Legislative Branch of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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

4 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Branch Budget is as follows:

5 **PART I**

6 **OPERATING BUDGET**

7 **Funds Appropriations:** Funds are appropriated to the Legislative Research
8 Commission for the Legislative Branch of government out of the General Fund and
9 Restricted Funds accounts for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30,
10 2027, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028, in the
11 following discrete sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary. Each appropriation is
12 made by the source of respective fund or funds accounts to be used for the purposes of
13 the Legislative Branch of government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

14 **A. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

15 **Budget Units**

	2026-27	2027-28
17 1. General Assembly		
18 General Fund	23,908,000	25,920,200
19 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
20 TOTAL	23,983,000	26,095,200

21 **(1) Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission:** Included in the above General
22 Fund appropriation is \$567,700 in each fiscal year of the 2026-2028 fiscal biennium for
23 the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission. Included in the above Restricted Funds
24 appropriation is \$75,000 in fiscal year 2026-2027 and \$175,000 in fiscal year 2027-2028
25 for the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission.

26 **(2) Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center:** Notwithstanding KRS
27 7B.010 to 7B.090, operation of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center and its

1 governing board shall continue to be suspended effective July 1, 2026, and shall remain
2 suspended for the 2026-2028 fiscal biennium or until funding is restored. No funds are
3 appropriated for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center for fiscal year 2026-
4 2027 and fiscal year 2027-2028.

5 **(3) Pension Benefit Increase:** Notwithstanding KRS 6.521(3), no pension
6 benefit increase shall be granted to recipients of a retirement allowance under KRS 6.500
7 to 6.577 on July 1, 2026.

8 **(4) Legislators Compensation:** Notwithstanding KRS 6.190 and 6.213, the daily
9 compensation provided by KRS 6.190 and the interim expense allowance provided by
10 KRS 6.213 for members of the General Assembly shall be as authorized by the 2024-
11 2026 biennium and shall continue as adjusted on January 1, 2027, by the salary increment
12 provided to state employees in the State/Executive Branch Budget.

13		2026-27	2027-28
14	2. Legislative Research Commission		

15	General Fund	66,218,400	66,804,500
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16 **(1) Legislative Record:** Notwithstanding KRS 7.105, distribution of the final
17 issue of the Legislative Record and the interim Legislative Record shall be suspended
18 effective July 1, 2026.

19 **(2) Legislative Publications:** Notwithstanding KRS Chapters 27A and 57, the
20 Acts of the General Assembly, the Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives,
21 and the official Kentucky statute publications may be distributed by use of electronic
22 versions only, at the discretion of the Director of the Legislative Research Commission.

23 **(3) Judicial Branch Salary Compensation Study:** Included in the above
24 General Fund appropriation is \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026-2027 to support a contract
25 with an external consultant to conduct a comprehensive salary and compensation study
26 for the elected and nonelected personnel of the Judicial Branch. The study shall review
27 current classifications, compensation levels, and market competitiveness and shall

1 include recommendations for potential adjustments to ensure equitable and competitive
2 compensation practices. The consultant shall submit the results of the study to the Interim
3 Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue by July 1, 2027.

4 **(4) Operating Expense Reduction:** The Director of the Legislative Research
5 Commission shall, by October 1, 2026, submit a report to the Legislative Oversight and
6 Investigations Committee and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and
7 Revenue regarding the historical and projected operational expenditures for the
8 Legislative Research Commission. The report shall include:

9 (a) A summary of actual and projected operational expenditures for fiscal years
10 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028;

11 (b) A description of the administrative steps and prior approval processes
12 implemented by the Director to reduce annual operational expenses; and

13 (c) The total projected savings for the 2026-2028 fiscal biennium resulting from
14 these cost-reduction efforts.

15 **TOTAL - OPERATING BUDGET**

	2026-27	2027-28
16 General Fund	90,126,400	92,724,700
17 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
18 TOTAL	90,201,400	92,899,700

19 **Unexpended Balance:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance
20 remaining at the close of fiscal year 2025-2026 shall not lapse but shall continue into
21 fiscal year 2026-2027, and any unexpended balance in any succeeding fiscal year shall
22 not lapse but shall continue into the following fiscal year.
23

24 **TOTAL - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUDGET**

	2026-27	2027-28
25 General Fund	90,126,400	92,724,700
26 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000

1 consists.

2 **6. Appropriations Revisions:** Proposed revisions to Restricted Funds
3 appropriations in this Act shall be made and reported pursuant to KRS 48.630(10).

4 **7. Allowance in Lieu of Stationery:** Notwithstanding KRS 6.220, in lieu of
5 stationery, there shall be allowed to each member of the House of Representatives the
6 sum of \$350 and to each member of the Senate the sum of \$650. This allowance shall be
7 paid out of the State Treasury at the beginning of each legislative session.

8 **8. Salary Adjustments:** In each fiscal year, employees of the Legislative
9 Research Commission shall receive a salary adjustment in accordance with the salary
10 adjustment provided to state employees in the State/Executive Branch Budget.

11 **9. Administrative Expenses:** Pursuant to KRS 21.540, administrative expenses
12 shall be paid out of an administrative account which shall be funded by transfers of the
13 necessary moneys, in appropriate ratio, from the funds provided for in KRS 21.550 and
14 21.560.

15 **10. Capitol and Capitol Annex Renovations:** Notwithstanding any statute or
16 contractual terms or conditions to the contrary, the President of the Senate and the
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, are authorized to meet,
18 consult, and communicate directly with any contracted professional services provider,
19 including but not limited to architects, design consultants, historic preservation
20 consultants, construction managers, and subcontractors, regarding any renovation, repair,
21 or construction project for the State Capitol and Capitol Annex without the presence of
22 the Finance and Administration Cabinet or its representatives. Nothing in this section
23 shall be construed to alter, limit, or supersede the authority of the Finance and
24 Administration Cabinet with respect to procurement, contract administration, or project
25 oversight, and does not authorize direction to contractors that is inconsistent with the
26 terms of any contract or applicable law.

27 **11. Special Temporary Nonprofit License:** (1) Notwithstanding any provisions

1 of KRS Chapters 241 to 244 or administrative regulations promulgated thereunder to the
2 contrary, a special temporary nonprofit license shall be issued to a nonprofit organization
3 or the organizer or sponsor of a state, regional, or national conference for its use at state,
4 regional, or national conferences, which shall not include a political campaign fundraiser.

5 (2) A special temporary nonprofit license shall authorize the holder and its
6 employees or agents to purchase, transport, receive, possess, store, sell, donate, deliver,
7 and serve alcoholic beverages, including wine, malt beverages, and distilled spirits, to be
8 sold by the package or the drink, or to be served free of charge by the drink, in person to
9 attendees of state, regional, or national conferences, by auction, or by raffle, or sold or
10 served free of charge by the drink to attendees of state, regional, or national conferences,
11 and to receive alcoholic beverages from distillers, rectifiers, wineries, small farm
12 wineries, brewers, microbreweries, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, or any other
13 person, by gift, donation, or delivery for its use at a state, regional, or national
14 conference.

15 (3) The location at which the alcoholic beverages are auctioned, sold, raffled,
16 served, or consumed under the provisions of this section shall not constitute a public
17 place for the purposes of KRS Chapter 222. Nonprofit events, including state, regional, or
18 national conferences, may be conducted on licensed or unlicensed premises.

19 (4) A special temporary nonprofit license shall not be issued for any period longer
20 than 30 days.

21 (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of KRS Chapters 241 to 244, a distiller,
22 rectifier, winery, small farm winery, brewer, microbrewery, wholesaler, distributor, or
23 retailer may donate, give away, or deliver any of its products to a nonprofit organization
24 or the organizer or sponsor of a state, regional, or national conference possessing a
25 special temporary nonprofit license.

26 (6) Nothing herein shall prohibit the employees of an entity that holds a special
27 temporary nonprofit license from serving or selling wine, malt beverages, and distilled

1 spirits by the drink to attendees of state, regional, or national conference.

2 (7) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the employees of retail drink licensees,
3 including but not limited to NQ1, NQ2, NQ3, and licensed caterers from serving or
4 selling wine, malt beverages, and distilled spirits by the drink at a state, regional, or
5 national conference on the account of or on behalf of a nonprofit organization or the
6 organizer or sponsor of a state, regional, or national conference that holds a special
7 temporary nonprofit license.

8 **PART III**

9 **BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN**

10 The Legislative Branch shall participate in any Budget Reduction Plan or Surplus
11 Expenditure Plan in accordance with KRS Chapter 48, except that obligations essential to
12 the constitutional duties of the Legislative Branch shall be exempt from any Budget
13 Reduction Plan. The level of participation in a Budget Reduction Plan shall be at the
14 discretion of the Director and shall not exceed the actual percentage of revenue shortfall.