

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

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

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

PART I

OPERATING BUDGET

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

A. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Budget Units

	2026-27	2027-28
1. General Assembly		
General Fund	23,905,200	25,917,300
Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
TOTAL	23,980,200	26,092,300

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

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

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

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

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

	2026-27	2027-28
2. Legislative Research Commission		

General Fund	64,731,000	65,989,200
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(1) Legislative Record: Notwithstanding KRS 7.105, distribution of the final issue of the Legislative Record and the interim Legislative Record shall be suspended effective July 1, 2026.

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

(3) Operating Expense Reduction: The State Auditor has identified that in fiscal year 2024-2025 the Legislative Research Commission spent \$392,822 on the following expense codes:

- (a) Employee Training- State Employee Only (E133) \$23,439;
- (b) Food Products (E341) \$6,635;

- 1 (c) Subscriptions (E353) \$38,972;
- 2 (d) In-State Travel (E361) \$123,561;
- 3 (e) Out of State Travel (E362) \$196,256;
- 4 (f) Travel for Non-State Employees (E363) \$962; and
- 5 (g) Dues (E381) \$7,017.

6 The Director of the Legislative Research Commission shall take the necessary steps
 7 to reduce, if possible, these annual expenses for the Legislative Research Commission in
 8 each of the above seven code categories by a minimum of 20 percent in fiscal year 2026-
 9 2027. The Director of the Legislative Research Commission shall, by July 1, 2026,
 10 submit a plan to accomplish this policy directive to the Interim Joint Committee on
 11 Appropriations and Revenue. Beginning August 15, 2026, the Director of the Legislative
 12 Research Commission shall file a quarterly report to the Interim Joint Committee on
 13 Appropriations and Revenue, showing the progress of implementation of this plan and
 14 the projected savings for the previous quarter and the cumulative savings for the fiscal
 15 year to date.

16 TOTAL - OPERATING BUDGET

17	2026-27	2027-28
18 General Fund	88,636,200	91,906,500
19 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
20 TOTAL	88,711,200	92,081,500

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

25 TOTAL - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUDGET

26	2026-27	2027-28
27 General Fund	88,636,200	91,906,500

1	Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
2	TOTAL	88,711,200	92,081,500

PART II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

5 **1. Expenditure Authority:** The Director of the Legislative Research
6 Commission, under the supervision of the Legislative Research Commission, may expend
7 any of the funds appropriated for legislative operation and administration in any lawful
8 manner and for any legal purpose consistent with the policies and practices of the
9 Commission. No executive agency or statute governing the executive agencies of state
10 government shall have the power to restrict or limit the actions of, or the expenditure of
11 funds appropriated to, the Legislative Research Commission for the Legislative Branch of
12 government.

13 **2. Capitol and Capitol Annex Capital Construction Expenditures:** Any
14 expenditure authorized by the Director of the Legislative Research Commission, under
15 the supervision of the Legislative Research Commission, relating to implementation of
16 KRS 56.463(4)(b), or relating to the Capitol Building, and funded by previous or current
17 appropriations to the Legislative Research Commission for the Legislative Branch of
18 government shall not be governed by KRS 7A.010, 7A.120, 45.750 to 45.810,
19 48.010(16), 48.020, and 48.110.

20 **3. Severability of Budget Provisions:** Appropriation items and sums in this Act
21 conform to KRS 48.311. If any section, any subsection, or any provision thereof shall be
22 invalid or unconstitutional, the decision of the courts shall not affect or impair any of the
23 remaining sections, subsections, or provisions.

24 **4. Duplicate Appropriation:** Any appropriation item and sum in this Act and in
25 an appropriation provision in another Act of the 2026 Regular Session of the General
26 Assembly which constitutes a duplicate appropriation shall be governed by KRS 48.312.

27 **5. Priority of Individual Appropriations:** KRS 48.313 shall control when a

1 total or subtotal figure in this Act conflicts with the sum of the appropriations of which it
2 consists.

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

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

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

12 **9. Administrative Expenses:** Pursuant to KRS 21.540, administrative expenses
13 shall be paid out of an administrative account which shall be funded by transfers of the
14 necessary moneys, in appropriate ratio, from the funds provided for in KRS 21.550 and
15 21.560.

16 **PART III**

17 **BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN**

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