

1 AN ACT relating to open meetings.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 61.848 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) The Circuit Court of the county where the public agency has its principal place of  
5 business or where the alleged violation occurred shall have jurisdiction to enforce  
6 the provisions of KRS 61.805 to 61.850, as they pertain to that public agency, by  
7 injunction or other appropriate order on application of any person.
- 8 (2) A person alleging a violation of the provisions of KRS 61.805 to 61.850 shall not  
9 have to exhaust his remedies under KRS 61.846 before filing suit in a Circuit Court.  
10 However, he shall file suit within sixty (60) days from his receipt of the written  
11 denial referred to in subsections (1) and (2) of KRS 61.846 or, if the public agency  
12 refuses to provide a written denial, within sixty (60) days from the date the written  
13 complaint was submitted to the presiding officer of the public agency.
- 14 (3) In an appeal of an Attorney General's decision, where the appeal is properly filed  
15 pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of KRS 61.846, the court shall determine the matter de  
16 novo.
- 17 (4) Except as otherwise provided by law or rule of court, proceedings arising under this  
18 section take precedence on the docket over all other causes and shall be assigned for  
19 hearing and trial at the earliest practicable date.
- 20 (5) Any rule, resolution, regulation, ordinance, or other formal action of a public  
21 agency without substantial compliance with the requirements of KRS 61.810,  
22 61.815, 61.820, ~~and KRS 61.823,~~ 61.826, 61.835, and 61.840 shall be voidable by  
23 a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 24 (6) Any person who prevails against any agency in any action in the courts regarding a  
25 violation of KRS 61.805 to 61.850, where the violation is found to be willful, may  
26 be awarded costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with  
27 the legal action. In addition, it shall be within the discretion of the court to award

1        the person an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for each instance in  
2        which the court finds a violation. Attorneys' fees, costs, and awards under this  
3        subsection shall be paid by the agency responsible for the violation.