

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, 2024, and ending June 30,
10 2025, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, 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**

	2024-25	2025-26
17 1. General Assembly		
18 General Fund	23,616,800	25,600,400
19 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
20 TOTAL	23,691,800	25,775,400

21 **(1) Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission:** Included in the above General
22 Fund appropriation is \$567,700 in each fiscal year of the 2024-2026 fiscal biennium for
23 the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission. Included in the above Restricted Funds
24 appropriation is \$75,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025 and \$175,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026
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, 2024, and shall remain
 2 suspended for the 2024-2026 fiscal biennium or until funding is restored. No funds are
 3 appropriated for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center for fiscal year 2024-
 4 2025 and fiscal year 2025-2026.

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, 2024.

	2024-25	2025-26
8		
9 2. Legislative Research Commission		
10 General Fund	65,024,800	66,183,100

11 **(1) Legislative Record:** Notwithstanding KRS 7.105, distribution of the final
 12 issue of the Legislative Record and the interim Legislative Record shall be suspended
 13 effective July 1, 2024.

14 **TOTAL - OPERATING BUDGET**

	2024-25	2025-26
15		
16 General Fund	88,641,600	91,783,500
17 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
18 TOTAL	88,716,600	91,958,500

19 **Unexpended Balance:** Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any unexpended balance
 20 remaining at the close of fiscal year 2023-2024 shall not lapse but shall continue into
 21 fiscal year 2024-2025, and any unexpended balance in any succeeding fiscal year shall
 22 not lapse but shall continue into the following fiscal year.

23 **TOTAL - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUDGET**

	2024-25	2025-26
24		
25 General Fund	88,641,600	91,783,500
26 Restricted Funds	75,000	175,000
27 TOTAL	88,716,600	91,958,500

1 **PART II**

2 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

22 **4. Duplicate Appropriation:** Any appropriation item and sum in this Act and in
23 an appropriation provision in another Act of the 2024 Regular Session of the General
24 Assembly which constitutes a duplicate appropriation shall be governed by KRS 48.312.

25 **5. Priority of Individual Appropriations:** KRS 48.313 shall control when a
26 total or subtotal figure in this Act conflicts with the sum of the appropriations of which it
27 consists.

1 **6. Appropriations Revisions:** Notwithstanding KRS 48.630(10), no revisions
2 for unbudgeted Restricted Funds appropriations for expenditure shall be allotted or
3 expended that have not been appropriated in any enacted branch budget bill or without
4 the express authority of the General Assembly.

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 **10. Employee Layoffs, Furloughs, and Reduced Hours:** Notwithstanding any
17 statute to the contrary, the following process and procedure is established for July 1,
18 2024, through June 30, 2026, in the event that the Legislative Research Commission
19 (LRC) determines that it is desirable for the Director of the LRC to layoff, furlough, or
20 reduce hours of employees:

21 (1) For the purposes of this section:

22 (a) "Appointing authority" means the Director of the LRC, in his or her capacity
23 as provided in KRS 7.090, or any agent whom he or she has delegated to act on his or her
24 behalf with respect to employee appointments, position establishments, payroll
25 documents, reemployment requests, waiver requests, requests for certification, or other
26 position actions for the LRC;

27 (b) "Furlough" or "reduction in hours" means the temporary reduction of hours an

1 employee is scheduled to work by the appointing authority within a pay period;

2 (c) "Layoff" means discharge of employment subject to the rights contained in
3 this section; and

4 (d) "Employees" includes all persons employed by the LRC;

5 (2) Upon an order by the LRC, the appointing authority has the authority to layoff
6 or furlough employees or reduce hours of employment for any of the following reasons:

7 (a) Lack of funds or budgetary constraints;

8 (b) A reduction in the agency's spending authorization;

9 (c) Lack of work;

10 (d) Abolishment of a position; or

11 (e) Other material change in duties or organization;

12 (3) The appointing authority shall determine the job classifications affected and
13 the number of employees laid-off in each classification to which a layoff applies. In the
14 same department or office and job classification, interim and probationary employees
15 shall be laid-off before any full-time or part-time employees are laid-off. For purposes of
16 layoff, "probationary employee" does not include an employee serving a promotional
17 probation;

18 (4) The Director of the LRC shall approve and implement all actions taken under
19 subsection (2) of this section and no such layoff, furlough, or reduction of hours may
20 begin until such approval has been granted. The Director of the LRC has the authority to
21 determine the extent, effective dates, and length of any action taken under subsection (2)
22 of this section;

23 (5) In determining the employees to be laid-off, the appointing authority shall
24 consider all employees under the same appointing authority and within the job
25 classification affected. Consideration shall be given to the following relevant factors:

26 (a) Job performance evaluations;

27 (b) Seniority;

1 (c) Education, training, and experience; and

2 (d) Disciplinary record;

3 (6) Any employee whose position is subject to layoff, furlough, or reduction of
4 hours shall be provided written notice containing the reason for the action as set forth in
5 subsection (2) of this section at least 15 days in advance of the effective date of the
6 action;

7 (7) Any employee who is laid-off shall be eligible to apply as a reemployment
8 applicant for positions with the same job classification in the LRC. For a period of two
9 years, a reemployment applicant shall be hired before any applicant except another
10 reemployment applicant with greater seniority who is on the same reemployment list.
11 When a reemployment applicant is removed from a reemployment list, he or she shall be
12 notified in writing. A reemployment applicant who accepts another LRC position, or who
13 retires, shall cease to have eligibility rights as a reemployment applicant;

14 (8) The appointing authority may place employees subject to a reduction in force;

15 (9) Furloughs or reduction of hours during a pay period shall not result in the loss
16 of eligibility for any benefit otherwise due the employee;

17 (10) The appointing authority shall have the authority to promulgate
18 comprehensive administrative regulations governing this section; and

19 (11) A layoff, furlough, or reduction of hours implemented in accordance with this
20 section shall not be considered a penalization of the employee.

21 **PART III**

22 **BUDGET REDUCTION OR SURPLUS EXPENDITURE PLAN**

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