



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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GOVERNOR

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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 320 OF THE
2021 REGULAR SESSION

Spending Limitation

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 88 of the Kentucky State Constitution, do hereby veto the following parts:

- Page 4, line 19, after “fund” delete the rest of the line.
- Page 4, line 20, delete “than \$50,000,000 of which to be awarded before April 1, 2022”.
- Page 4, line 22, after “administrative regulations” delete “to ensure that”.
- Page 4, lines 23 through 27, in their entirety.
- Page 5, line 1, in its entirety.
- Page 5, line 8, in its entirety.

I strongly support this legislation, but am vetoing these parts because they create a limitation of spending just one-fifth of the \$250 million appropriation over the next year, which will put Kentucky at a competitive disadvantage to other states at a time all will be competing to purchase and run fiber.

The provisions specifying that the moneys be awarded in a certain priority order, while implying good intentions, fail to accommodate the very first subsection of the bill, “That the provision of broadband service to residential, commercial, and industrial customers is critical to securing a sound economy and promoting the general welfare of the Commonwealth;”. The priority order eliminates the economic development opportunities by omitting the needs of commercial and industrial purposes that may arise. I would be willing to sign additional legislation, if necessary, that remedies this oversight.

This the 26th day of March, 2021.

Andy Beshear
Governor