



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 312 OF THE**  
**2026 REGULAR SESSION**

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

House Bill 312 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*While I believe in the Second Amendment, Kentuckians under age 21 cannot rent a car, cannot buy alcohol, cannot buy tobacco products, cannot consume medical cannabis through vapor devices, and cannot be a State Representative or Senator. Under another bill filed this session they would not be able to place a sports bet. Kentuckians are also allowed to stay on their parents' health insurance policies until they are 26 years old. Laws setting these minimum age limits are meant to protect our youth.*

*Yet under House Bill 312, minors under age 21 could carry concealed deadly weapons, even though federal law restricts their ability to buy handguns. Tonight, I'm remembering my friend Tommy Elliott, who was murdered along with four other children of God three years ago in an act of gun violence. I'm vetoing this bill in his honor.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 312.*

This, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2026.

  
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Andy Beshear  
Governor