

Bills become law, ending DEI in public colleges

BY MCKENNA HORSLEY
Kentucky Lantern

With a veto-proof supermajority, Republican lawmakers overturned Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's vetoes on two notable higher education bills Thursday.

House Bill 4 eliminates diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives (DEI) at Kentucky's public universities and was at the center of heated debates in the General Assembly this session.

Some Kentucky professors have warned that House Bill 424 erodes academic tenure at the state's public universities and colleges, although its sponsor has said it is about employment contracts at universities.

The House and Senate quickly gave both final passage by largely party-line votes.

In his veto messages on the bills, Beshear argued they could both hinder higher education in Kentucky.

Some advocates agreed with him. Four people — college students Jillian Gabhart, Savannah Dowell and Alice Harkins and Eastern Kentucky University lecturer Carl Root — read eulogies for university education on the steps of the Capitol Thursday morning. Dressed in black, they held a funeral as lawmakers convened for business.

"We may have lost a battle here in Frankfort, and we should absolutely mourn what we've lost here today," Root said. "But we must also organize, agitate, educate and fight back against those who would use all the power of government in attempts to force uniformity, inequity and exclusion on all our universities, classrooms and curriculum."

Some House Democrats met with the funeral-goers outside.

When HB 424 was called to the floor, Rep. Adrielle Camuel, D-Lexington, said she feared passing the bill would upend recruiting faculty to the state's public universities. She added that protecting tenure gives



A small group holds a mock funeral for university education on the steps of the Capitol Thursday morning to protest two bills that received final approval from the legislature Thursday evening. (Kentucky Lantern photo)

faculty "the ability to explore complex, and sometimes controversial topics."

"Tenure protects the core mission of higher education," she said. It is the fearless pursuit of knowledge and critical thinking."

Democrats in the Senate raised similar concerns in their chamber. Sen. Cassie Chambers Armstrong, D-Louisville, and a law professor at the University of Louisville, said HB 424 has produced "confusion and fear" among faculty. She said she was supportive of Beshear's reasoning for the veto, adding that "these sorts of policies that take away faculty self-governance" and "put in place these programs with no guardrails" undermine

the security tenure establishes.

Meanwhile, Republicans easily had the votes to enact their policies. Rep. Vanessa Grossl, R-Georgetown, said she supported the veto override of HB 4 because she believes "in equality" and "equal opportunity."

"Our greatest divide as a commonwealth and as a nation is not based in race, but is rural and urban," she said. "I'm voting no today because DEI on our college campuses is not helping poor kids in Kentucky who are seeking to further their educational goals, regardless of their immutable characteristics."

In speaking in support of HBL 4, Sen. Donald Douglas, R-Nicholasville, looked back to the Civil

Rights Movement and said activist Martin Luther King Jr. "gave us a great start and what happened?" Douglas then asked, "Should we continue to blame others and hold others accountable for our own personal decisions?"

"This legislation is only a message to those who are unwilling or unable to love others deep enough to allow them to seek their own way or their own level of success," the senator said. "We have to love them."

The Kentucky bills are reflective of actions Republicans have taken elsewhere to exert their influence over higher education. On the issue of tenure, Florida recently passed a law

requiring post-tenure reviews of professors at public universities and termination should they fail them. This year, a Nebraska Republican lawmaker introduced a bill that would replace academic tenure with annual performance evaluations of faculty members.

Though an anti-DEI bill failed to pass in Kentucky last year, the passage of the current law comes as Republican President Donald Trump has made DEI a target of his administration. In addition to issuing an executive order aimed at curbing DEI in the private sector early on in his second term, Trump is facing a lawsuit from fired federal workers who were tasked with implementing DEI policies.

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PUBLIC NOTICE The Lincoln County Fire Protection District will be accepting nominations for the position of Firefighter Trustee on the Fire Board. Nominations for this position will be accepted beginning April 16, 2025 and must be received on or before 4:00 PM May 16, 2025. Nomination forms may be picked up at the

Public Notices

Fire Chief's office at 309 Highway 590 Stanford, KY (Fire Station 1). Any questions concerning the election contact the Fire Chief at (606)661-0877 or (606)669-5168.

Interior Journal: Apr. 3 and 10, 2025 FIREFIGHTER TRUSTEE

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Stanford Board of Adjustments will be holding a Public Hearing on April 17th, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Stanford Fire Department regarding a conditional use permit for the property located at 202 Logan Avenue. The application was submitted by Dillon Roberts. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Interior Journal: Apr. 3, 2025 HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMISSIONER'S SALES COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY 28TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT

Pursuant to the Judgments and Orders of Sale of the Lincoln Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Lincoln Circuit Court will sell the real properties described in the following Civil Actions at the front door on the outside of the Lincoln County Courthouse, on APRIL 15, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as said property can be sold. The purpose of these sale is to satisfy the Judgements of the Lincoln Circuit Court in the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest, advances for the

Public Notices

protection of the property, costs and attorney fees as authorized and provided in said Judgements.

The hereinafter described real properties will be sold and conveyed on the following terms and conditions:

1. Subject to valid and existing easements, restrictions, reservations, conditions, covenants, and limitations apparent or of record in the chain of title.
2. The purchaser shall either pay the entire purchase price at the time of sale; or if the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay a minimum deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance due in 30 days. If the sale is made on credit, the purchaser shall pay the required deposit at the time of sale and execute bond for the balance due bearing interest at the rate the Judgement bears from the date of sale until paid, with SURETY THEREON AND SAID SURETY MUST BE PRESENT AT THE SALE AND APPROVED BY THE MASTER COMMISSIONER; and the bond shall be secured by a lien upon said property sold which shall have the full force and effect of a judgement.
3. The real properties shall be sold free and clear of all liens, indebtedness, interest and claims of the parties to the proceeding, subject to any and all applicable statutory rights of redemptions, including and Right of Redemption granted to the United States of America pursuant to 28 U.S.C Sec. 2410.
4. Delinquent ad valorem taxes will be paid out of the proceeds of sale. The purchaser will be responsible for payment of the 2024 ad valorem taxes. Possession of the real property will be given to the purchaser with

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the delivery of the deed of conveyance thereto.

SALE NO. 1 KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION V ROBERT GRAFF; LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT 24-CI-00354; BEING LOT 9 SECTION 2 RAIN TREE SUBDIVISION; TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT IN THE SUM OF \$217,977.56 PLUS COST AND ATTORNEYS FEES; SEE PLAT CABINET A SLIDE 364; DEED BOOK 472 PAGE 630 LINCOLN COUNT CLERK; PVA MAP #009-02-18-010.00

SALE NO. 2 ANP TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC V KENNETH SMITH; LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT NO. 24-CI-0058; BEING A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED AT 2345 KY HIGHWAY 2750 (OLD US 150) CRAB ORCHARD, KY 40419; TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT IN THE SUM OF \$9,284.88; SEE DEED BOOK 347 PAGE 14 AND DEED BOOK 356 PAGE 156, LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK; PV A MAP #096-00-25-002.00

SALE NO. 3

Public Notices

ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC V STACY SCOTT; LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT NO. 24-CI-00042 TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,891.65 PLUS COURT COST AND INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 6% BEING 1.097 ACRES AND A 2001 CLAYTON MOBILE HOME THEREON LOCATED AT 137 OLD OTTENHEIM ROAD STANFORD, KY 40484; SEE DEED BOOK 437 PAGE 186 LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK; PVA MAP #075-00-16-025.00

ROBERT R. BAKER MASTER COMMISSIONER LINCOLN CIRCUIT COURT

Interior Journal: Mar. 27, Apr. 3 and 10, 2025 SALE 4.15.25

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