

Gov. Beshear signs executive order clarifying qualifying conditions for medical cannabis

With clarification, 15 additional conditions are included under Kentucky law

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 2, 2026) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear signed an executive order directing Team Kentucky’s Office of Medical Cannabis to issue an emergency regulation further clarifying qualifying conditions for medical cannabis in Kentucky law. With the clarification, 15 additional conditions are recognized, including sickle cell anemia, ALS, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s, terminal illness and more.

The Office of Medical Cannabis, the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Workgroup and the Board of Physicians and Advisors all previously made requests to the General Assembly to clarify the law, but no action was taken.

“The law is meant to provide a safe alternative form of pain relief for Kentuckians suffering, yet the law’s lack of clarity prevented too many people from receiving help. This step makes the law more clear,” said Gov. Beshear. “With the progress we’ve made to reduce overdose deaths and fight addiction, it’s important we continue to offer an alternative to dangerous and addictive opioids. This emergency regulation will help more Kentuckians reclaim their lives through safe, nonaddictive medical cannabis.”

With today’s clarification, terminal illness, sickle cell anemia, ALS, Parkinson’s disease, HIV, AIDS, Huntington’s

disease, muscular dystrophy, cachexia or wasting syndrome, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, neuropathies, severe arthritis, fibromyalgia and glaucoma are now included under Kentucky law.

Joining Gov. Beshear to make the announcement was Dr. Linda McClain, a member of the Board of Physicians and Advisors, and Rebecca Seavers, president of the Sickle Cell Association of Kentuckiana and whose daughter and granddaughter suffer from the genetic disorder.

“I’ve had the privilege of being a part of this program from the beginning, the implementation, as well as the establishment of the program. The board’s mission is to ensure that all Kentuckians have safe and reliable access to medical cannabis. I’m very proud of the progress we’ve made toward that goal, however, more work is needed. Today’s announcement is a huge step in reducing, hopefully, the patient’s confusion as to whether their diagnosis meets the current list of conditions,” said Dr. McClain.

“Sickle cell causes sudden, excruciating pain anywhere the blood flows, for hours, days or even longer,” Seavers said. “Right now, in Kentucky and across the country, opioids are prescribed for sickle cell patients. I want to thank Gov. Beshear for taking this action that will provide sickle cell

patients more safe options. Thousands of Kentuckians, the Sickle Cell Association of Kentuckiana and myself are proud to support this step.”

Also in attendance at the announcement was retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jared Bonnell. Bonnell has been a strong advocate for medical cannabis, knowing that it is a safe alternative for veterans like him who suffer from PTSD – a condition included since the law took effect in 2025.

“Really, it’s an expansion of access for folks. Anytime a law is written, those words mean something, and sometimes the people that write them don’t necessarily understand how limiting those words can be to a patient. So this executive order, and hopefully pending legislation, will increase that access,” said Bonnell.

For more information on qualifying conditions or to find a participating provider and begin the application process, visit KyMedCan.Ky.gov.

Medical Cannabis Program

On June 14, 2022, Gov. Beshear issued an executive order creating the Team Kentucky Medical Cannabis Advisory Committee, which hosted multiple town hall forums to hear from Kentuckians on medical cannabis. The findings were released to the public in August 2022 along with a report summarizing that Kentuckians

overwhelmingly supported medical cannabis.

Following the actions of the Advisory Committee, on March 31, 2023, Gov. Beshear signed Senate Bill 47, legalizing medical cannabis for Kentuckians beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

On April 17, 2024, Gov. Beshear signed House Bill 829 into law, which moved up the timeline for medical cannabis licensing in Kentucky by six

months. The Kentucky Office of Medical Cannabis began accepting applications from prospective businesses on July 1, 2024.

To date, Kentucky has 32 medical cannabis businesses up and running and has registered over 500 medical cannabis practitioners. More than 23,700 Kentuckians have been approved for medical cannabis cards.

Under KRS Chapter 218B, the Office of Medical Cannabis is responsible for implementing and administering the Kentucky Medical Cannabis Program. The program has conducted a first round of approvals for licenses and will continue to conduct additional rounds as the program grows.

For more on Kentucky’s Medical Cannabis Program, visit kymedcan.ky.gov.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget Hearing Regarding Proposed Use of County Road Aid And Local Government Economic Assistance Funds

A public hearing will be held by the Elliott County Fiscal Court on June 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. All interested persons in Elliott County are invited to the hearing to submit oral or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s), who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments, should call the Office of the County Judge/Executive at 606-738-5826 by June 16, 2026 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

E-6-5-2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Elliott County budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, to include unanticipated receipts from Occupational Tax, Economic Development Funds, State Grants, Emergency State Grants, KLEFPF, FEMA, Sheriff Dept Fees, etc. in the amount of 1,178,347.85 and increasing expenditures in the area Road Maintenance, Contract Hauling, Reserve for Transfers, etc., will be held on June 16th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elliott County Courthouse. A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

E-6-5-2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

Second reading of a proposed ordinance amending the Elliott County budget for fiscal year 2025- 2026, to include unanticipated receipts from Franchise Tax, State Grants-Emergency. Legal Process Fees. Jail Operations. KLEFPF, FEMA, etc. in the amount of \$388,118.25 and increasing expenditures in the area of Reserve for Transfers, etc., was adopted by the Elliott County Fiscal Court on May 21st, 2026.

A copy of the proposed ordinance with full text is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

E-6-5-25

SEALED BIDS

ELLIOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT IS NOW ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OR SERVICES:

- CRUSHED STONE AND GRAVEL WITHOUT HAUL BILL
- CRUSHED STONE AND GRAVEL WITH HAUL BILL
- SHOT ROCK
- HAULING CRUSHED STONE AND GRAVEL FROM QUARRY TO GRAVEL YARD, ETC.
- PIPE AND OR TILE
- FUEL (GAS AND DIESEL)
- SURFACE ASPHALT (PRICE PER TON) AND (PICK UP PRICE PER TON)
- BINDER ASPHALT (PRICE PER TON AND (PICK UP PRICE PER TON)
- ASPHALT TACK
- RAIL AND CRIBBING
- CHIP SEAL
- ROAD MAINTANENCE (DITCHING, POTHOLING, SLIP REPAIRS, TREE REMOVAL, MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL...ETC.)
- PROPANE (COUNTY GARAGE, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, COURTHOUSE, AND LAUREL GORGE CENTER)
- HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

ELLIOTT COUNTY FISCAL COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL SEALED BIDS.

The sealed bids will be opened during a special meeting of the Elliott County Fiscal Court held on June 16th, 2026. If you would like any additional information concerning these sealed bids or would like to obtain more specific information about the materials being bid upon, please contact the office of the Judge Executive.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Elliott County Judges Office, located in the Elliott County Garage on Route 7, by 4 p.m. on June 16th, 2026. Bids can also be mailed to: Elliott County Fiscal Court P.O. BOX 710 Sandy Hook, KY 41171

If you have any questions about the specifics of the bids, please call the office of the Judge Executive at 606-738-5826.

C-6-4-2T

Way Back When Column: Bees

By Jo Ann Butts

My husband and I were setting in our swing the other evening after a whole week of rain, gazing at the ever growing yard grass covered with clover heads blooming.

There was an occasional bee here and there gathering nectar for the trip back to the hive where it lives. We were debating on letting it go a couple more days for the few bees we saw.

It was a pretty sight seeing them fly from one clover head to another, and it brought back to my mind the bees of my childhood.

Bees are a feeble few, it seems like anymore. There are so many things that attack them these days – from mites, pesticides and diseases.

But way back when I was a young girl on our farm up in the Coal Branch Holler on Middlefork here in Elliott County in the 1950s and 1960s, bees were everywhere.

We went barefoot beginning the first day of May, and occasionally we’d get stung between our toes. That was painful for a bit.

There were several tasks that we were expected to do whenever the need arose – sometimes at a minutes notice. I, as an adult, would not ask any child or even an adult to do a lot of the things that were expected of us as little kids.

When we were little we had beehives. Daddy made his own hive boxes from hollow beach

trees. We had two or three all the time. He taught us to watch and see which direction a wild bee would travel after getting water from the creek. He said they would fly in a straight line to their hive.

We had a old timey push mower, and we’d cut the grass and clean up the yard when our grandparents came to visit.

Those bees would get testy when I tried to push mow around their hives. They’d get in my hair and I’d run away swatting and screaming, leaving my mower with them buzzing all around it. When they finally cooled down, I’d sneak up there and get my mower.

They made the best honey. It was so good.

Daddy was a good hand at robbing them. They produced a big dish pan full of honey comb most every time. He used a make shift bee bonnet, with a screen wire face that Mommy sewed on to keep the bees out. He also used a smoker too, that made them docile.

But Daddy’s little mother didn’t need anything extra to help her. She told me that the bees just let her walk right up and take as much as she wanted. They didn’t care and she never got stung. But in her old years she was scared of wasps and bees because she become allergic to them.

It was nice having bees back then. We never thought much about them being on the property, until it was time for them to swarm.

Daddy would tell us over

and over what to do if they did swarm while he was gone for the day. That was traumatic for a child to have to try an capture a swarm of bees. And, yes – it was expected of my brother and me to settle them down so they’d land on a bush or low limb and daddy could put them in a new hive when he got back home.

My older brother and I threw handfuls of dirt into the swarm while they buzzed and swarm on up the steep hill behind our house.

NO, we did not get them captured – though we tried our best. We threw handful after handful of dirt and dust trying to settle them down to the ground, nut they were determined to leave.

It was a scary thing to do, while a thousand bees are flying in circles around the queen close to our heads, and we were trying to stop them from leaving by throwing a little dirt on their wings.

Well, it didn’t happen. We had to tell Daddy we tried our best, but he wasn’t happy about it – or with us either. He said we should have done better. That was just how it was for us when we were kids.

As little kids we were more adult than a lot of adults are today. We didn’t see much kid time when we were kids long ago. We took on adult roles at a very early age, but that’s just how it was way back when.

Jo Ann Butts
606-738-9839

Driver licensing regional offices closed June 4-5 to roll out new licensing system

Reminder: Kentuckians are encouraged to visit offices early and create myDrive accounts after Monday, June 8, launch to save time and trips

Team Kentucky is reminding Kentuckians to plan ahead, as all Driver Licensing Regional Offices will be closed on Thursday, June 4, and Friday, June 5 as the commonwealth launches a new and improved driver licensing system that will enhance the customer experience and expand online options. Offices will reopen Monday, June 8. Customers with licenses or IDs expiring in June are encouraged to visit an office early.

The new driver licensing system replaces Kentucky’s nearly 40-year-old platform and is part of continued efforts to modernize state services and improve the customer experience. The upgraded system will launch alongside myDrive, a new online driver services portal that allows Kentuck-

ians to pre-apply for a license, permit or ID, request a card replacement, check their current license standing, and more.

Kentuckians are encouraged to register for a myDrive account at mydrive.ky.gov once the portal becomes available on June 8. Even if Kentuckians do not have any immediate licensing needs, creating an account early can save time later, as account verification may require some users to request a secure verification code that will arrive by mail. Kentuckians who schedule a road or written test with the Kentucky State Police are encouraged to pre-apply for a license or permit on myDrive to save time on the day of their appointment and to arrive prepared.

The following temporary licensing services will take effect

to aid with system migration: All Driver Licensing Regional Offices will close Thursday, June 4 - Friday, June 5.

Offices will reopen on Monday, June 8. Walk-in hours will be 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. through June 18.

Saturday office hours will be available May 30 from 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monthly Saturday hours will resume in July.

The MyCDL portal to upload medical certificates will be discontinued starting June 3 at 5 p.m. Eastern.

Online driver’s license renewal will be unavailable beginning Wednesday, June 3. Services will be restored on Monday, June 8 and still require a completed vision screening form. More info about office hours, services and myDrive is available at drive.ky.gov.