

Tuition waiver for older Kentuckians appears safe

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Kentucky Lantern

A Republican lawmaker is no longer trying to end the tuition waiver for Kentuckians who are 65 and older but is pushing instead for a new requirement that at least one Democrat thinks is unnecessary.

Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, has filed a floor amendment that would leave the tuition waiver for senior citizens unchanged and as it's been in state law since 1976.

Rep. James Tipton, R-Taylorsville, presenting a substitute for House Bill 497 in committee last week, said the new version of his bill would no longer end the tuition waiver for older Kentuckians but would add a new requirement that they file for financial aid. Tipton said the new requirement on older students would be consistent with his bill's requirement that younger students who qualify for tuition waivers would now be required to complete the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA).

The legislature through the years has required public universities and colleges to waive tuition for at least 10 groups, including foster and adopted children; the survivors of war veterans; survivors of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty, and some teachers. The waiver for people 65 and older grew out of the University of Kentucky's Herman L. Donovan Scholarship for Senior Citizens established in 1964 and named for a former UK president who championed life-long learning. The legislature codified the waiver in 1976 for all of the state's public universities and colleges.

Altogether, the waivers result in \$31 million in foregone revenue for public universities and colleges each year, according to the Council on Postsecondary Education, which is asking the legislature to appropriate \$30 million a year into a new trust fund to compensate universities for the tuition they do not collect from students who qualify for the state waivers.

In addition to students 65 and older, Tipton's bill applies to the children and spouses of police and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty and survivors of military veterans. It adds survivors of emergency medical services personnel to those eligible for tuition waivers.



DAVID MICHAEL HARGIS PHOTO

Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville, has filed a floor amendment that would leave the tuition waiver for Kentuckians 65 and older as is. A bill awaiting House action would require them to file federal student aid applications.

He said his bill would offset part of the waivers' cost to institutions because many survivors would qualify for federal and state tuition grants. The state tuition waiver would then become "last dollar in" assistance to make up for the difference between the amount of financial aid and the tuition cost.

"They have shortened that FAFSA form. It's not near as complicated as it used to be, and it's very possible that we may have some 65 and older people who maybe are lower income, would be Pell (Grant) eligible, and that way those dollars would come into the university," Tipton told the House Standing Committee on Postsecondary Education,

which he chairs.

His bill would require senior citizens to fill out a FAFSA even if they are auditing a class rather than taking it for credit.

Willner, the only committee member to vote against Tipton's bill, questioned the value of requiring older students to fill out the federal financial aid form to qualify for the tuition waiver. Senior citizens can enroll in free courses only if there's space in the class; institutions are not required to add classes to accommodate them.

"I've reached out to some of the universities. I've gotten some good responses," Willner said. "It appears to me that

even though they have a line item in their budget that shows this is what they are giving up in tuition, they're not actually spending anything out of pocket for these 65 and up folks."

She said that staying engaged intellectually and being part of a community are known to improve health as people age.

"I really think it's shortsighted of us not to just say, 'If you're 65 and up, and this is something that you're interested in, go for it.' I think it's smart. I think it doesn't really cost the state or the universities anything, and I think it would save us money and health care costs. It would make for happier, healthier, more engaged seniors."

Housing Authority of Richmond

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Richmond, KY 40476-0786

TELEPHONE (859) 623-1321

Notice of Request for Proposal for Lawn Service for the Housing Authority of Richmond. The Housing Authority of Richmond requests proposal for a contract to conduct all lawn services on designated properties.

*Robinson Terrace

*Willis Manor

*Smith Village

*Dillingham Heights

All bidders must submit verification of coverage for \$1,000,000 General Liability and Worker's Compensation coverage with the Housing Authority of Richmond designated as loss payee for said project prior to submission of bids. All contractors must be in compliance with Davis Bacon Labor Standards. Contractors will furnish a minimum 3 past business references.

All bids will be received by the Housing Authority
NO LATER than March 2nd, 2026, at 10:00am.

All bids submitted after that date and time will be declined.

A tour of the properties and description of work requested can be obtained by contacting the **Executive Director, Jessica Strong, and setting up a time to visit the sites. (859) 623-1321**

CITY OF RICHMOND KENTUCKY BID NOTICES

The City of Richmond is requesting bids for (2) **Ventrac 4520 with accessory kit PRO KN4520, along with the following attachments (1) KJ520 Broom; (1) ET202 Turbine Blower; (1) MS720 Mower-Finish; (1) MK960 Mower Wide Area; (1) EB480 Aerator with additional weights 42 lbs. with box and (2) Accessory-Dual Wheel kits.** Sealed bids are due no later than **Friday March 6th at 1:00 pm est** and should be addressed to **City of Richmond, Attn: Lisa Cassity, 239 West Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.** Specifications for this piece of equipment can be obtained by contacting **Tim Gross at tgross@richmondky.gov.**

The City of Richmond is requesting bids for (1) **Polaris Ranger XP 1000 with full cab, and (2) Polaris Ranger XP 1000 open cab with top and windshield.** Sealed bids are due no later than **Friday March 6th at 1:00 pm est** and should be addressed to **City of Richmond, Attn: Lisa Cassity, 239 West Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.** Specifications for this piece of equipment can be obtained by contacting **Tim Gross at tgross@richmondky.gov.**

The City of Richmond is requesting bids for a **Pro Gator 2020A.** Sealed bids are due no later than **Friday March 6th at 1:00 pm est** and should be addressed to **City of Richmond, Attn: Lisa Cassity, 239 West Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.** Specifications for this piece of equipment can be obtained by contacting **Tim Gross at tgross@richmondky.gov.**

The City of Richmond is requesting bids for a **Kubota SVL75-3HFWRCC track machine with a 74" bucket and pallet forks.** Sealed bids are due no later than **Friday March 6th at 1:00 pm est** and should be addressed to **Richmond City Hall, Attn: Lisa Cassity, 239 West Main Street, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.** Specifications for this piece of equipment can be obtained by contacting **Tim Gross at tgross@richmondky.gov.**

The City of Richmond reserves the right to reject any or all bids.