

# Treasurer Metcalf announces 2026 updates to STABLE Kentucky as program reaches \$23 million in assets

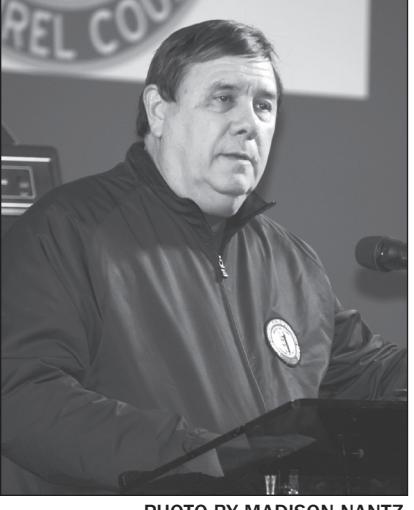


PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

**State Treasurer Mark Metcalf outlined new programs in his office.**

KENTUCKY STATE TREASURY

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky State Treasurer Mark H. Metcalf today announced major updates to STABLE Kentucky that will make the program more accessible and affordable for individuals with disabilities and their families.

"These updates strengthen an already powerful program," said Treasurer Metcalf. "By lowering costs, expanding eligibility, and building on the success we've already seen, we're helping more Kentuckians with disabilities achieve financial security and independence."

Since Treasurer Metcalf took office, STABLE Kentucky has experienced

significant growth. Today, the program manages more than \$23 million in assets and serves families in 102 of Kentucky's 120 counties — reflecting strong statewide demand and trust in the program.

STABLE Kentucky is the Commonwealth's version of the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program, allowing eligible individuals to save and invest without losing access to critical benefits.

Key changes beginning in 2026 include:

- Elimination of the account maintenance fee for partner-state account holders.
- \$25 enrollment incentive for new accounts once funded.
- Expanded eligibility for individuals whose disability began before age 46.

"These improvements remove barriers and put more control in the hands of families," said Jordyn Pennington, Director of STABLE Kentucky. "With STABLE now in nearly every county, more families are building real financial independence."

Funds in STABLE accounts grow tax-free and can be used for qualified disability expenses such as housing, healthcare, education, and transportation — without affecting eligibility for programs like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

To learn more or open an account, visit [www.stablekentucky.com](http://www.stablekentucky.com) or call 1-800-439-1653.



**State Sen. Chris McDaniel is filing an amendment aimed at preventing abuse of the governor's pardon power.** | LRC PHOTO

## McDaniel again files amendment on governor's pardon power

BY TOM LATEK

KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — State Sen. Chris McDaniel, R-Ryland Heights, has once again filed a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at preventing abuse of the governor's pardon and commutation powers in the final days of his or her administration.

The measure, designated Senate Bill (SB) 10, has been identified as a priority by Senate Majority leadership.

"This is about transparency, accountability, and restoring public trust," McDaniel said. "I remain committed to ensuring Kentucky voters have the opportunity to close a loophole that has been misused to bypass the will of the people. I am grateful to Senate leadership for designating this one of our top

10 bills during the 2026 Legislative Session."

SB 10 would amend Sections 77 and 240 of the Constitution of Kentucky to suspend a governor's ability to issue pardons and commutations during the 60 days before a gubernatorial election through the inauguration of the next governor.

The measure builds on bipartisan concern following controversial pardons by former Governor Matt Bevin issued after the 2019 gubernatorial election, and, most recently, public attention resurfaced after last-minute pardons by President Joe Biden.

SB 10 pertains only to the powers of Kentucky's governor. "This is about transparency, accountability, and restoring public trust," McDaniel said. "I remain committed to ensuring Kentucky voters have the opportunity to close a loophole that has been misused to bypass the will of the people. I am grateful to Senate leadership for designating this one of our top

chambers. The governor's signature is not required. If fully approved by the legislative process, the question would be placed on the next general election ballot for voter approval. A majority of voters' support is required to amend the state's constitution. No more than four ballot questions may be on a general election ballot.

"This reform has been years in the making, and it is not something I am willing to give up on," McDaniel noted. "I appreciate the continued support from my colleagues and look forward to finally placing this decision in the hands of Kentuckians."

A similar proposal introduced by McDaniel last year cleared the Senate without dissent but was not acted upon by the House.

## PAGE A10 PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Crossword Puzzle

