

1 AN ACT relating to earned paid sick leave.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 337 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, or legal  
7 ward of an employee if the child is less than eighteen (18) years old or is  
8 over eighteen (18) but incapable of self-care due to mental or physical  
9 disability;

10 (b) "Earned paid sick leave" means the time off from work that is provided by  
11 an employer to an employee as computed under this section that can be  
12 used for purposes set forth in this section and is compensated at the same  
13 hourly rate as the employee earns from his or her employment at the time  
14 the employee uses the paid sick leave; however, the hourly rate shall not be  
15 less than the minimum hourly wage under KRS 337.275;

16 (c) "Employee" has the same meaning as in KRS 337.010(1)(e);

17 (d) "Employer" has the same meaning as in KRS 337.010(1)(d);

18 (e) "Health care provider" means any person licensed under federal or state  
19 law to provide health care services, or any other person authorized to  
20 provide health care by a licensed health care professional, including but not  
21 limited to physicians, osteopaths, nurses, advanced practice registered  
22 nurses, physician assistants, and psychologists;

23 (f) "Parent" means a biological, adoptive, or foster parent of an employee or  
24 an employee's spouse, or other person who assumed the responsibilities of  
25 parenthood when the employee or the employee's spouse was a child; and

26 (g) "Spouse" means the person to whom the employee is married.

27 (2) Each employer shall provide earned paid sick leave to each employee working for

1 the employer in the state. An employee shall begin accruing earned paid sick time  
2 beginning on his or her date of hire or on the effective date of this Act, whichever  
3 is later, but employees shall not be entitled to use accrued earned sick time until  
4 the ninetieth calendar day following commencement of employment. For every  
5 thirty (30) hours worked, the employee shall accrue one (1) hour of earned paid  
6 sick leave. An employee exempt from overtime requirements under state or  
7 federal law shall be assumed to work forty (40) hours each week unless his or her  
8 normal work week is less than forty (40) hours, in which case earned paid sick  
9 time shall accrue based on that normal work week.

10 (3) The employer shall not be required to permit the employee to accrue at any one  
11 (1) time, or carry forward from one (1) year to the next, more than forty (40)  
12 hours of earned paid sick leave if the employer has less than ten (10) employees  
13 or more than seventy-two (72) hours of earned paid sick leave if the employer has  
14 ten (10) or more employees.

15 (4) An employer is considered to be in compliance with this section if the employer  
16 offers any other fully paid leave that may be used for the purposes set forth in this  
17 section in the manner provided for in this section and is accrued at a rate equal to  
18 or greater than the rate described in this section. Nothing in this section shall be  
19 construed to discourage or prohibit any employer from allowing the accrual of  
20 earned paid sick leave at a faster rate, or the use of earned paid sick leave at an  
21 earlier date, than this section requires.

22 (5) An employer shall permit an employee to use accrued earned paid sick leave  
23 pursuant to this section for any of the following:

24 (a) Time needed for the diagnosis, care, or medical treatment of, or recovery  
25 from, an employee's mental or physical illness, injury, or other health  
26 condition;

27 (b) Time needed for the diagnosis, care, or medical treatment of, or recovery

1 from, a mental or physical illness, injury, or other health condition of the  
2 employee's child, parent, or spouse; and

3 (c) Time needed due to circumstances resulting from the employee or the  
4 employee's child, parent, or spouse being a victim of domestic violence so  
5 long as the leave is to allow the victim of the domestic abuse to obtain  
6 medical attention needed to recover from physical or mental injury or  
7 disability caused by the domestic violence, to obtain services from a victim  
8 services organization, to relocate due to domestic violence or sexual assault,  
9 to obtain a restraining or protective order, or to participate in any civil or  
10 criminal proceedings related to the domestic violence.

11 (6) If the employee's need to use earned paid sick leave is foreseeable, the employer  
12 may require advance notice, not to exceed seven (7) days prior to the date such  
13 leave is to begin, of the intention to use earned paid sick leave and the expected  
14 duration of the leave. The employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule  
15 the use of earned paid sick leave in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the  
16 operations of the employer.

17 (7) If the employee's need to use earned paid sick leave is not foreseeable, an  
18 employer may require an employee to give notice of the intention to use earned  
19 paid sick leave as soon as practicable. For earned paid sick leave of more than  
20 three (3) days, an employer may require reasonable documentation that the leave  
21 is being used for a purpose permitted under this section. If the leave is used  
22 pursuant to subsection (5)(a) or (b) of this section, documentation signed by a  
23 health care provider who is treating the employee or the employee's child, parent,  
24 or spouse indicating the need for the leave and the anticipated necessary number  
25 of days of leave shall be considered reasonable documentation. If the leave is  
26 used pursuant to subsection (5)(c) of this section, a court record, a law  
27 enforcement report, or documentation signed by an attorney, police officer,

1 counselor, or representative of a victim services organization shall be considered  
2 reasonable documentation.

3 (8) Unless an employee policy or collective bargaining agreement provides for the  
4 payment of unused accrued earned paid sick leave benefits upon termination, no  
5 employee shall be entitled to payment of unused accrued earned paid sick leave  
6 benefits upon termination of employment.

7 (9) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require any employer to provide earned  
8 paid sick leave for an employee's leave for any purpose other than those  
9 described in this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an  
10 employer from taking disciplinary action against an employee who used earned  
11 paid sick leave for purposes other than those described in this section.

12 (10) No employer shall retaliate against an employee because the employee requests or  
13 uses earned paid sick leave in accordance with this section or the employer's own  
14 earned paid sick leave policy, or files a complaint alleging the employer's  
15 violation of the provisions of this section. No employer shall count earned paid  
16 sick leave as an absence that may result in disciplinary action against the  
17 employee.

18 (11) Each employer subject to the provisions of this section shall, at the time of hiring,  
19 provide notice to each employee of the entitlement to earned paid sick leave, the  
20 amount of earned paid sick leave provided, and the terms under which earned  
21 paid sick leave may be used.

22 (12) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an employer from  
23 adopting a policy whereby an employee may donate unused accrued earned paid  
24 sick leave to another employee.

25 (13) An employee shall not be required to use earned paid sick leave for any absence  
26 during a period of time in which, by mutual consent of the employee and the  
27 employer, the employee works an equivalent number of additional hours during

1 *the same or the next pay period as the hours not worked due to reasons permitted*  
2 *in this section. An employer shall not require an employee to work additional*  
3 *hours to make up hours in which the employee was absent or require the*  
4 *employee to find a replacement employee to cover hours during which the*  
5 *employee is using earned paid sick time.*

6 ➔Section 2. KRS 337.990 is amended to read as follows:

7 The following civil penalties shall be imposed, in accordance with the provisions in KRS  
8 336.985, for violations of the provisions of this chapter:

9 (1) Any firm, individual, partnership, or corporation that violates KRS 337.020 shall be  
10 assessed a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than  
11 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each offense. Each failure to pay an employee the  
12 wages when due him under KRS 337.020 shall constitute a separate offense.

13 (2) Any employer who violates KRS 337.050 shall be assessed a civil penalty of not  
14 less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

15 (3) Any employer who violates KRS 337.055 shall be assessed a civil penalty of not  
16 less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)  
17 for each offense and shall make full payment to the employee by reason of the  
18 violation. Each failure to pay an employee the wages as required by KRS 337.055  
19 shall constitute a separate offense.

20 (4) Any employer who violates KRS 337.060 shall be assessed a civil penalty of not  
21 less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)  
22 and shall also be liable to the affected employee for the amount withheld, plus  
23 interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum.

24 (5) Any employer who violates the provisions of KRS 337.065 shall be assessed a civil  
25 penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand  
26 dollars (\$1,000) for each offense and shall make full payment to the employee by  
27 reason of the violation.

- 1 (6) Any person who fails to comply with KRS 337.070 shall be assessed a civil penalty  
2 of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars  
3 (\$1,000) for each offense and each day that the failure continues shall be deemed a  
4 separate offense.
- 5 (7) Any employer who violates any provision of KRS 337.275 to 337.325, KRS  
6 337.345, and KRS 337.385 to 337.405, or willfully hinders or delays the  
7 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative in the performance  
8 of his or her duties under KRS 337.295, or fails to keep and preserve any records as  
9 required under KRS 337.320 and 337.325, or falsifies any record, or refuses to  
10 make any record or transcription thereof accessible to the commissioner or the  
11 commissioner's authorized representative shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less  
12 than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). A  
13 civil penalty of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be assessed for any  
14 subsequent violation of KRS 337.285(4) to (9) and each day the employer violates  
15 KRS 337.285(4) to (9) shall constitute a separate offense and penalty.
- 16 (8) Any employer who pays or agrees to pay wages at a rate less than the rate applicable  
17 under KRS 337.275 and 337.285, or any wage order issued pursuant thereto shall be  
18 assessed a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than  
19 one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- 20 (9) Any employer who discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any  
21 employee because the employee has made any complaint to his or her employer, to  
22 the commissioner, or to the commissioner's authorized representative that he or she  
23 has not been paid wages in accordance with KRS 337.275 and 337.285 or  
24 regulations issued thereunder, or because the employee has caused to be instituted  
25 or is about to cause to be instituted any proceeding under or related to KRS  
26 337.385, or because the employee has testified or is about to testify in any such  
27 proceeding, shall be deemed in violation of KRS 337.275 to 337.325, KRS 337.345,

1 and KRS 337.385 to 337.405 and shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than  
2 one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

3 (10) Any employer who violates KRS 337.365 shall be assessed a civil penalty of not  
4 less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

5 (11) A person shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars  
6 (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) when that person discharges or  
7 in any other manner discriminates against an employee because the employee has:

8 (a) Made any complaint to his or her employer, the commissioner, or any other  
9 person; or

10 (b) Instituted, or caused to be instituted, any proceeding under or related to KRS  
11 337.420 to 337.433; or

12 (c) Testified, or is about to testify, in any such proceedings.

13 **(12) Any employer who violates Section 1 of this Act shall be assessed a civil penalty**  
14 **of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense. Each day of**  
15 **violation shall constitute a separate offense, and the violation as it affects each**  
16 **individual worker shall constitute a separate offense. The Attorney General, or**  
17 **any person authorized to act on his or her behalf, shall initiate enforcement of**  
18 **this penalty.**