

CHAPTER 157**(SJR 55)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions to combat antisemitism.

WHEREAS, Jewish students are targeted for hate crimes at a higher per capita rate than students belonging to any other group; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2024 report by the Combat Antisemitism Movement, recorded incidents of antisemitism, including on Kentucky's university campuses, have reached record highs; and

WHEREAS, the Combat Antisemitism Movement's Antisemitism Research Center reports a total of 6,326 antisemitic incidents in 2024, representing a 107.7 percent increase from 2023, and 742 incidents on American college campuses in 2024, a 200 percent increase compared to 2022; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly passed resolutions adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism and encouraging public officials, including the presidents of our public postsecondary education institutions, to ensure that the Commonwealth of Kentucky will live up to the transcendent principles of religious freedom and equal protection as embodied in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, protecting the right of students to access Kentucky's public postsecondary education institutions is an obligation; and

WHEREAS, to address rising incidents of antisemitism, Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions need to take timely action;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. By January 1, 2026, the governing board of each of Kentucky's public postsecondary education institutions shall adopt policies to combat antisemitism within their institutions that use as guidance the definition of "antisemitism" as established by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and recognized in 2021 Regular Session Senate Resolution 67 and the institutions shall adhere to the First Amendment. The institutions shall implement these policies through June 30, 2028, and may continue implementation thereafter. Policies shall require:

- (1) At the start of each semester, notifying all students:
 - (a) Of the rights that are protected at the institution under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and how a student may file a complaint if the student believes those rights have been violated;
 - (b) That KRS 344.450 provides any person injured by certain acts of discrimination with a civil cause of action to enjoin further violations and to recover the actual damages sustained and the costs of the law suit; and
 - (c) Of the institution's policies regarding student-on-student harassment;
- (2) The identification of all Jewish groups that seek to serve Jewish students attending the institution as community resources to the same extent as any other religious organization is recognized by the institution as a community resource;
- (3) The defunding and disbanding of any student organization that has been found by an institution to be providing material support or resources to a designated terrorist organization and the reporting of those activities to appropriate law enforcement authorities; and
- (4) The collection of data of:
 - (a) The number of reports alleging antisemitism submitted to the institution, the number of investigations opened by the institution as a result of those reports, and the outcomes of those investigations;
 - (b) The number of reports alleging violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that are connected to antisemitism of which the institution has been notified and the results of those investigations that are in the possession of the institution; and
 - (c) The number of actions that have been brought against the institution under KRS 344.450 and the outcomes of such actions.

➔Section 2. By June 30 of each year, until July 1, 2028, each public postsecondary education institution shall report the data collected under subsection (4) of Section 1 of this Resolution to the Council on Postsecondary Education. The report shall include data collected over the prior year, except the first report shall review available data from the prior two years. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall compile the data for each institution and for the state at-large, place it on the council's website, and report it to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate interim joint committees.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate shall forward a copy of this Resolution and notification of its adoption to the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education; to the presidents of the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System; and to the president of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities.

Signed by Governor April 2, 2025.