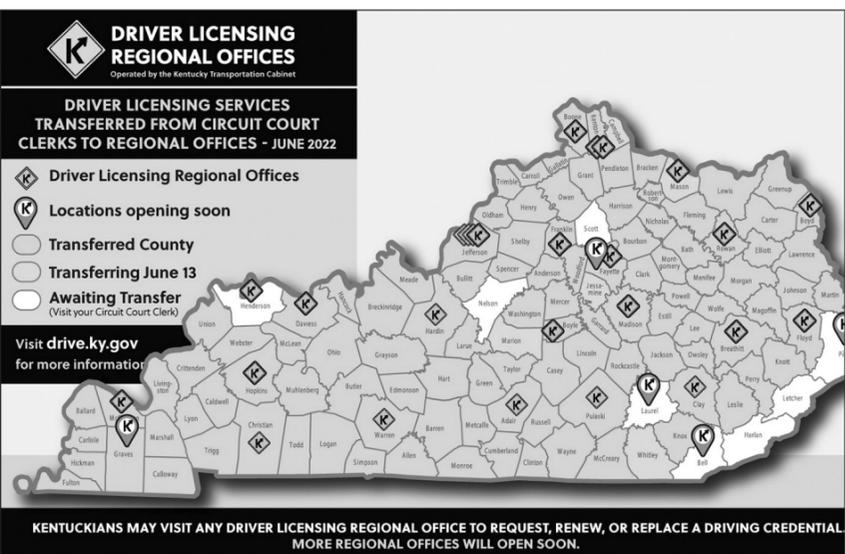


Transition of Driver Licensing from Circuit Court Clerks to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Being Completed as of June 27

Final eight counties ceasing issuance; new KYTC regional offices offer 'next-level' licensing services for Kentucky drivers



FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 10, 2022) – The transition to a new, secure system of issuing Kentucky driver licenses and state identification cards will be complete on Monday, June 27, when the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) assumes that responsibility in the last eight counties in which local circuit court clerks were in charge of issuance.

“It’s a new era of driver licensing in Kentucky,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “The switch to a system of KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Offices means greater security of personal identification and more options for Kentucky drivers.”

The last counties to make the transition will be Bell, Harlan, Henderson, Laurel, Letcher, Nelson, Pike and Scott. The Office of Circuit Court Clerk in each of the eight counties will cease issuing licenses and IDs at close of business on Friday, June 24. The following Monday, all license issuance and renewal – including REAL ID verified credentials – will be vested in the KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Offices.

For years, circuit court clerks provided licenses and state IDs, but a majority of clerks asked KYTC to take over issuing REAL IDs. As a result, legislation was passed in 2020 that transitioned all driver licensing and state ID services to KYTC. The legislation set a June 30, 2022, completion date.

To carry out the transition, KYTC created a network of Driver Licensing Regional Offices located across the state. Twenty-eight regional offices have been opened to date, with plans for at least three more.

“We accepted the challenge of assuming all driver licensing and ID issuance, and we have been hard at work creating the best network we can,” KYTC Secretary Jim Gray said. “Circuit court clerks will now be able to focus solely on court business, and driver licensing will be executed at new regional offices whose only business is licensing.”

Residents of counties making the transition may renew or apply for a REAL ID or new standard card version of driver license, learner permit, commercial driver license (CDL) or ID card at any KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Office. Applicants are encouraged to make an appointment online, which can be done at drive.ky.gov | Regional Offices Map. Walk-in customers are welcomed on a first-come, first-served basis at most locations. Check here to see whether walk-in capacity has been reached on any given day.

To date, more than 167,000 Kentuckians have skipped a trip to a regional office by renewing their current license online or by mail. In addition, 2,499 Kentuckians have been issued credentials by the KYTC Pop-up Driver Licensing Program in counties that don’t host a regional office. Pop-up teams have visited 81 counties to date. To learn more about how to renew, click here.

KYTC regional offices – the only place where Kentuckians can get a REAL ID – are currently operating in Bowling Green, Burlington, Catlettsburg, Columbia, Covington, Danville (appointment only), Elizabethtown, Frankfort, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Independence, Jackson, Lexington, London, Louisville/Bowman Field (appointment only), Louisville/Dixie Highway (appointment only), Louisville/Hurstbourne, Louisville/Nia Center, Madisonville, Manchester, Mayfield, Maysville, Morehead, Owensboro, Paducah, Prestonsburg, Richmond and Somerset, with more offices planned.

Driver Licensing Regional Offices will offer the following:

- Online appointment scheduling. Walk-in customers are welcome at most locations. Check here to see whether walk-in capacity has been reached on any given day.
- A choice between a REAL ID and a new standard card version. Both feature security upgrades and are available with a choice of four-year or eight-year expiration. (Eight years for all CDLs.)
- Service at ANY regional office, regardless of customer’s county of residence.
- Periodic “Pop-up Driver Licensing” visits to counties without a regional office to offer on-site application and renewal services.

License applicants receive a temporary identification document at the end of the transaction for use until the permanent card arrives by mail at their home address. This reduces the wait time for printing credentials during visits and improves security by eliminating in-office card production machinery.

A full list of counties that have transferred services to regional offices is available at drive.ky.gov | Circuit Clerks.

Driver Testing

Kentucky State Police will continue to administer all permit and license testing. Testing services are offered Monday through Friday by appointment. Applicants who require testing by KSP for a permit, driver license or CDL may make an appointment online by visiting <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/driver-testing/>.

REAL ID

Kentucky will continue offering the option of a standard driver’s license. But a REAL ID or other form of federally approved identification, such as a passport or Department of Defense-issued military ID, will be needed by people 18 and older for boarding commercial flights and accessing military bases and federal buildings that currently require identification. Enforcement is scheduled to begin May 3, 2023.

First-time application for a REAL ID must be made in person at a Driver Licensing Regional office. Specific documentation is required. A list of acceptable documentation and a link to take an interactive quiz that populates a personalized list of documents is available at drive.ky.gov

Gov. Beshear Takes Action to Help Kentuckians Save at the Pump, Combat Baby Formula Price Gouging

Governor asks feds to issue waiver for lower-cost gas, issues baby formula state of emergency

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 9, 2022) – Following his actions to freeze vehicle property taxes for two years and halt a statutorily scheduled increase in the state’s per-gallon gas tax, today, Gov. Andy Beshear took further action aimed at helping Kentuckians save at the pump as well as combating baby formula price gouging.

“My administration is doing everything we can to try to help keep more money in the pockets of our hard-working Kentucky families,” Gov. Beshear said. “Today’s actions are just two more ways we can help provide our families some relief in these challenging times.”

Reformulated Gas Waiver Request

First, in a letter sent to top administrators at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Gov. Beshear requested that the administration grant a waiver and remove the requirement that more costly, “reformulated” fuel be sold in many urban areas – including the Louisville metropolitan area. On top of the price spike, the supply of reformulated gasoline that Kentucky relies on has faced the added pressure of a global supply crunch.

If approved, the waiver would stay in effect for up to 20 days, allowing conventional, more affordable gasoline to be sold in Jefferson County, as well as portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties.

While reformulated gas helps cut down on pollution, during these unprecedented times, the reformulated blend is adding an additional cost – as much as 20 or 30 cents or more per gallon – to Kentucky families who are already paying too much, the Governor said.

“The people who live and work in the Louisville area do not deserve to shoulder this extra burden during what is already a trying time when it comes to filling up,” Gov. Beshear said.

Baby Formula State of Emergency

Second, Gov. Beshear issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency over the baby formula shortage that has impacted the nation and the commonwealth. The Governor’s order activates state price-gouging laws, which aim to protect families seeking to purchase formula from the predatory pricing that can occur when supplies are limited due to high demand.

The current baby formula shortage is mainly attributed to the lack of supply after a major production plant was shut down earlier this year when the FDA began investigating bacterial infections in four babies who were fed the formula.

“By implementing our price gouging laws, we can make sure that families are not being charged more than they should to obtain a critical supply of formula to feed their baby,” Gov. Beshear said. “I urge families to immediately report any instance of price gouging to the Office of the Attorney General.”

“The infant formula shortage has caused worry and frustration for Kentucky’s families as they have sought to provide nutrition to our most precious citizens,” said Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Department for Public Health. “We encourage families to reach out to all available resources in their community, including local health departments, pediatricians, food pantries, community action councils and other supporting agencies to meet the nutritional needs of their infants and to ensure they thrive. We also encourage all eligible families to enroll in WIC or SNAP to help during this shortage.”

Kentuckians should click here to report baby formula price gouging to the Office of the Attorney General. The Governor said, at this time, the attorney general has not reported any claims of price gouging or requested that the price gouging laws be activated, but other states have reported such claims and are taking steps to address them. Under current law, the state of emergency and price gouging laws can last for 30-days; however, local county and city officials can request an extension.

These are just the latest actions taken by the Governor to help Kentuckians. Last week, the Governor filed an emergency regulation to freeze the state gas tax and to prevent a 2-cents-per-gallon increase that would have taken effect July 1. The effort is expected to save Kentuckians \$35.4 million. To learn more, see the full release.

In February, Gov. Beshear signed an executive order that stopped an increase in vehicle property taxes that resulted from soaring used car values. That order is in effect for two years, and Kentuckians are expected to see \$340 million in savings from the reduction. To learn more, see the full release.

The Governor, working with Representative Angie Hatton of Whitesburg, previously supported legislation to temporarily cut the state sales tax from 6% to 5%, from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The measure was not adopted by lawmakers during the 2022 Regular Session. Under the Governor’s proposal, Kentuckians would have seen \$873 million in relief directly related to sales tax savings.

Last week, Gov. Beshear outlined five assistance programs Kentuckians should research to see if they could financially benefit their families. They include:

- The Team Kentucky Healthy at Home Eviction Relief Fund can assist renters with up to 15 months of past due and future utility bills. Renters and landlords can view a complete list of requirements and apply for rental assistance through stopmyeviction.org or teamkyherf.ky.gov for up to 12 months of past-due rent and utility bills and three months of future payments. Lexington area residents can apply for rental assistance through the Fayette County program at covid19renterhelp.org.
- The Homeowner Assistance Fund is another important resource for Kentucky households. This program was created to help homeowners impacted by COVID-19 avoid foreclosure or loss of utility services, very similar to the eviction relief fund for renters. Qualified homeowners can visit teamkyhaf.ky.gov to apply for up to \$35,000 in assistance to help with delinquent mortgage payments, property taxes, homeowners and/or flood insurance, homeowners association fees and utility costs. If approved, the funds will be paid as a grant directly to mortgage servicers, utility companies, county property tax administrators, insurance agencies or homeowners associations.
- In December 2021, the FCC launched the Affordable Connectivity Program. This is a long-term, \$14 billion program to ensure our people can afford the internet needed for work, school, health care and more. Qualifying households can receive a monthly benefit up to \$30 per household. For more information or to apply, visit fcc.gov/acp.
- Another important resource for families with children is the Kentucky Child Care Assistance Program. This program helps eligible families pay for child care. You can access more information on this program through kynect. It is easy to apply and will be an important resource for families during the summer months.
- Finally, local Community Action Agencies across the state offer a wide range of resources, including food security, transportation, home energy, senior support and more. Visit capky.org for a location near you or to learn more.