the

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill

III # P3

Referred to Committee: House 1

Authors: Samuel Kessler, Alex Doss	Action on the Bill	
School: Campbellsville HS	House	Senate
City: Campbellsville	□ Passed □ Defeated	□ Passed □ Defeated

An act to prevent unnecessary filibustering in the Kentucky General Assembly

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: What is filibustering– Filibustering is where representatives in General Assembly use extended speaking time to prevent the voting of a specific bill. This period of speech has no limited amount of time and can occur as long as there are Representatives who are recognized to speak. Filibustering in Kentucky General Assembly mostly occurs near the end of congressional session.

Section 2: The Problem- The issue with filibustering is that Representatives of certain political parties continually create debate to stall for time and prevent a bill to be voted on. This is usually because the bill they are trying to block expresses ideas of a different political party and not their own. If the current Governor is in favor of the filibustered bill, he/she could call for a special session which costs taxpayers even more money than a regular General Assembly session. Instead of simply taking a vote, or compromising for the good of all citizens, there is debate which can occur for hours costing taxpayers thousands and preventing any hope of a bipartisan solution beneficial to all citizens of Kentucky. Officials of the state have sworn in constitutional oath to perform duties "faithful and true" to the Commonwealth. Therefore, because of the negative effects unnecessary filibustering has on Kentucky citizens, it is hereby declared: not "faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky".

Section 3: The problem will be solved by declaring unnecessary filibuster unconstitutional and allowing the filibustered bill to proceed to a vote. This will be accomplished in these steps:

- Step 1– The Chief Justice of the state supreme court will annually select two associate justices to serve as filibuster judges; one for the Senate and the other for the House of Representatives.
- Step 2- Each associate justice has the power to appear in their designated house of General Assembly and declare a filibuster unconstitutional, forcing a vote on the filibustered bill.
- Step 3- These justices may only use these powers when there is no bipartisan solution (compromise) being offered.
- When this solution is created during a filibuster, the judges will allow the filibuster continue until the bipartisan bill is
- complete. If the authors of the bipartisan bill stall for time, the judges will enact their power to declare the current filibuster unconstitutional.
- Step 4– These filibuster judges must be present on the last day of congressional session from 4pm until the end. These judges may also be requested to appear by any official serving in the House or Senate when filibuster occurs.
 - Section 4: The justices will not receive additional pay for serving as filibuster judge; meaning this bill has no cost. This bill will go into effect immediately after passage and judicial approval.