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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill

Blue	Bill # 43
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Referred to Committee: Senate 2

Authors: Taylor Grider, Kaylie Polston, Aaron Bunch, Zac Foster	Action on the Bill	
School: Russell Co. HS	House Senate □ Passed □ Passed □ Defeated □ Defeated	
City: Russell Springs		U Passed

An act to restore voting rights to felons convicted of nonviolent/nonsexual crimes once their sentence is complete.

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

Section 1: In most states, felons can achieve re-enfranchisement (the right of voting) either once their sentence is complete, or a period of time after. In the state of Kentucky, a felon is permanently disenfranchised unless the governor issues an executive pardon. It is estimated that over 180,000 Kentuckians are now barred from polls.

Section 2: We propose that an amendment be made to the Kentucky state constitution that would allow for the restoration of voting rights to convicted felons. They would only be re-enfranchised if they have met the following criteria:

- 1) They served their sentence for its entirety, including parole.
- 2) The crime was nonviolent/nonsexual. A nonviolent crime is defined as a crime that does not involve the use of any force or injury to the body of another person. Nonviolent crimes can include most property crimes, fraud, drug or alcohol related crimes, and gambling. Violent/sexual crimes can include assault, homicides, domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, and prostitution.

Section 3: Our ultimate objective is to reinstate the constitutional right of voting to Kentucky felons who meet the previously stated criteria. In reference to section 1, over 180,000 Kentucky citizens are not permitted to vote. Re-enfranchisement will allow qualifying felons to regain this right.

- Section 4: This bill will require no funding.
- Section 5: This bill will go into effect upon passage.