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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill

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Referred to Committee: House 1

Authors: Veronica Vaughn, Alexandra Vaughn, Rachel Baker, Maddie Waldrop	Action on the Bill		
School: South Oldham HS	House	Senate	
	🗆 Passed	Passed	
City: Crestwood	☐ Defeated	☐ Defeated	

An act to increase the age of the Safe Haven Law from 72 to 90 days.

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

Section 1: Within 90 days of birth, the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) can relinquish their parental rights and responsibilities over the child by leaving the child at one of the designated locations: a hospital, other medical facility, fire station, or police station. This age frame will provide ample time for parents to relinquish their rights without getting charged or prosecuted and save more lives of children.

Section 2: 35 infants between the ages of 0–72 hours have been saved in Kentucky as of 2002 as result of the Safe Haven Law. In 2012, 3,810 abortions were performed. Nationwide, at least 161 babies have been abandoned while 103 were found dead. By increasing the age range to 90 days, more lives can be saved as result of the new addition to the Safe Haven Law. Fewer murders of newborns would occur and it would provide more opportunities to distressed parents. These lives can be saved by better prevention of abortion and child abandonment.

Section 3: By leaving the child unharmed at one of the designated areas, the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) give up their parental rights and responsibilities. The parents can legally and anonymously do so without being charged or prosecuted of criminal acts such as, but not limited to, child negligence, and child abandonment.

Section 4: If the child, after being dropped off to one of the approved designated locations and personnel, is assessed and found to have been abused or harmed in any way, the provisions of section 1 and section 3 shall not apply. If this is the case, all other laws will be imposed and practiced such as criminal charges including, but not limited to, child negligence, child abandonment, and child abuse as determined fit.

Section 5: No additional costs are required for the enactment of this bill.

Section 6: This bill will go into effect as of January 1, 2015.