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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: KENTUCKY CIVIL RIGHTS ACT 1966



Kentucky Historical Society collections

STATEWIDE — The Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 prohibits discrimination in accommodations or employment based on race, national origin, color or religion.

The General Assembly passed the act and Gov. Edward “Ned” Breathitt signed it into law on Jan. 27, 1966.

Kentucky was the first Southern state to pass such legislation and the first state in the South to establish enforcement power over civil rights violations at the state level.

In 1967, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights held its first hearing on a discrimination complaint and enforced the 1966 statute, ruling that Don’s Trip Inn Tavern had to serve all customers regardless of race, color, religion or national origin. By not only passing, but also enforcing, the provisions of the law, Kentucky’s Civil Rights Act became a model for other states seeking to protect the rights of minority citizens.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
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