

**BARREN FISCAL COURT
RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL COUNTY WORKERS PURSUANT TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

WHEREAS, Barren County (hereinafter “County”) hereby recognizes that our County workforce has performed exceptionally during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic (hereinafter “pandemic”) which began January 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law March 11, 2021, which provides individual counties an allotment of funds for a variety of purposes related to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, one of the ARPA permissible purposes is premium pay for essential workers, which includes work performed by local government employees;

WHEREAS, premium pay means, in part, an amount up to thirteen dollars and no cents (\$13.00) per hour in addition to wages or remuneration the worker otherwise receives;

WHEREAS, Barren County recognizes that all county employees, regardless of wage level, should be rewarded and incentivized for having provided, and for continuing to provide, exemplary service during this pandemic as pandemic risks cut across income levels; and

WHEREAS, Barren County wishes to reward and incentivize our employees by creating a program that recognizes exceptional work;

WHEREAS, the TREASURY URGES COUNTIES TO PRIORITIZE PREMIUM PAY LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS: Counties should prioritize low- and moderate-income persons, with additional written justification needed for workers above 150 percent of the residing state’s average annual wage for all occupations or their residing county’s average annual wage, whichever is higher;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF COUNTY OF BARREN, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The County was allotted ARPA funding to be utilized for a variety of purposes related to the pandemic.

Section 2. One of ARPA’s permissible purposes is essential worker premium pay. ARPA recognizes that county employees are essential workers making county employees’ premium pay eligible.

Section 3. The County has determined that, as recognition of and as an incentive to provide exemplary work during this pandemic, all regular full and part-time county employees who were employed by the county on January 27, 2020 and who remain employed by the County on December 3, 2021 are hereby eligible to receive ARPA-funded premium arrears pay for hours worked, *excluding administrative leave, telework from home and Zoom or other video conferencing work from home*, in accordance with ARPA premium pay guidelines. Premium pay for all regular full and part-time county employees shall be calculated at a rate of \$5.00 per hour worked for the time period beginning January 27, 2020 and ending August 28, 2021.

Furthermore, it is determined that Elected County Officials, though they are County employees, are hereby exempted from premium pay.

APPROVED this the 16th day of November, 2021.

MICHEAL HALE
Barren County Judge Executive

ATTESTED:

SHERRY J. JONES
Barren County Fiscal Court Clerk

Passed by a Vote of _____ to _____.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY BY:

KATHRYN M. THOMAS
Barren County Attorney