



2026 HB 557:

***Reshaping the Shared Responsibility
of County Jails in Kentucky***

County jails at a crisis point



County general fund support for jails FY2019 - FY2025



Source: KACo analysis of Uniform Financial Information Reports, FY2019-25 (excludes Fayette and Jefferson)

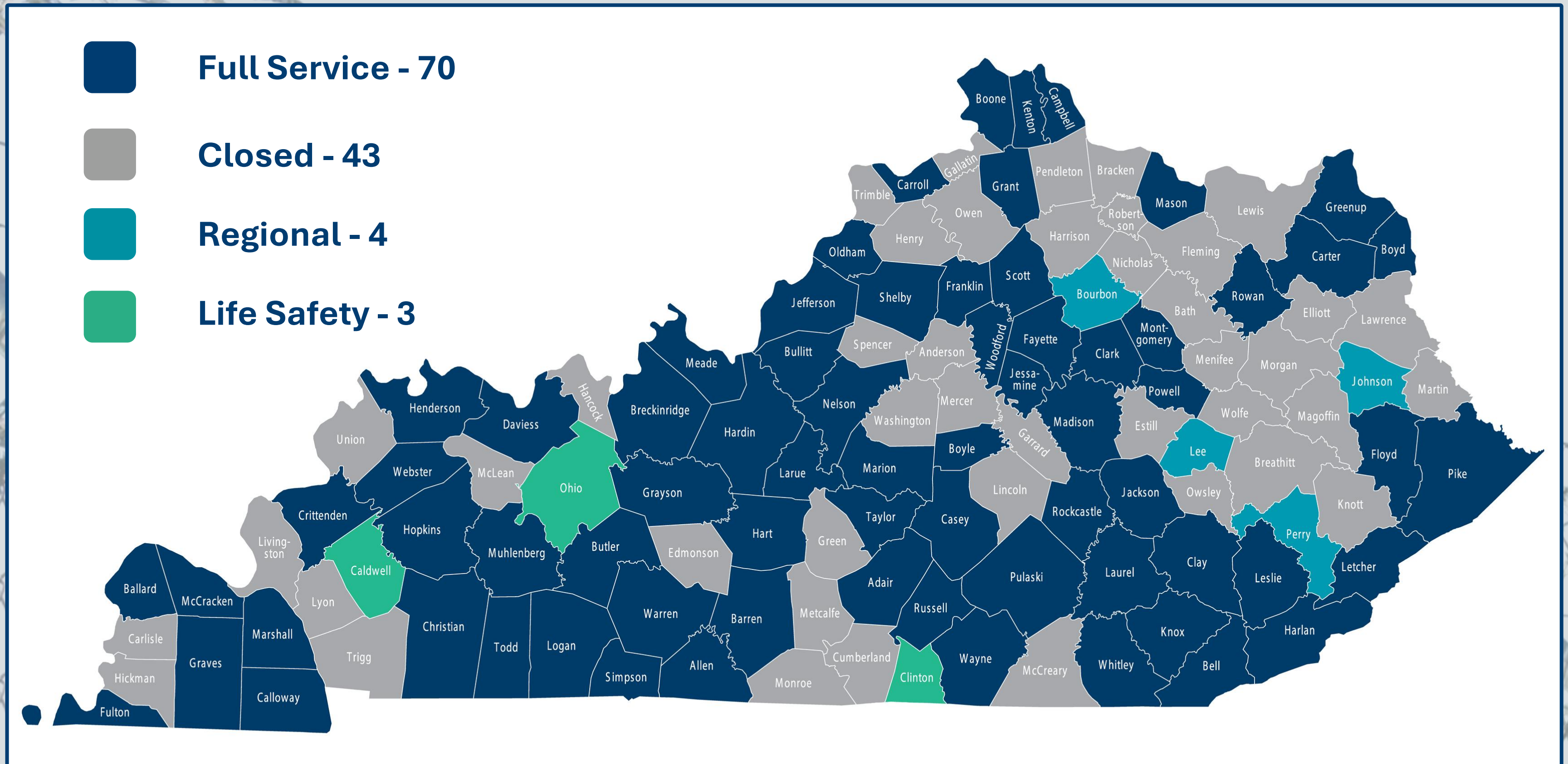
Comprehensive approach:

- Incentivizing regional jails
- Clarifying responsibility for pre-trial felony detainees
- Redefining the state inmate housing model

Total fiscal impact: Approximately \$200 million excluding one-time funding incentives and construction.

Incentivize Regional Jails



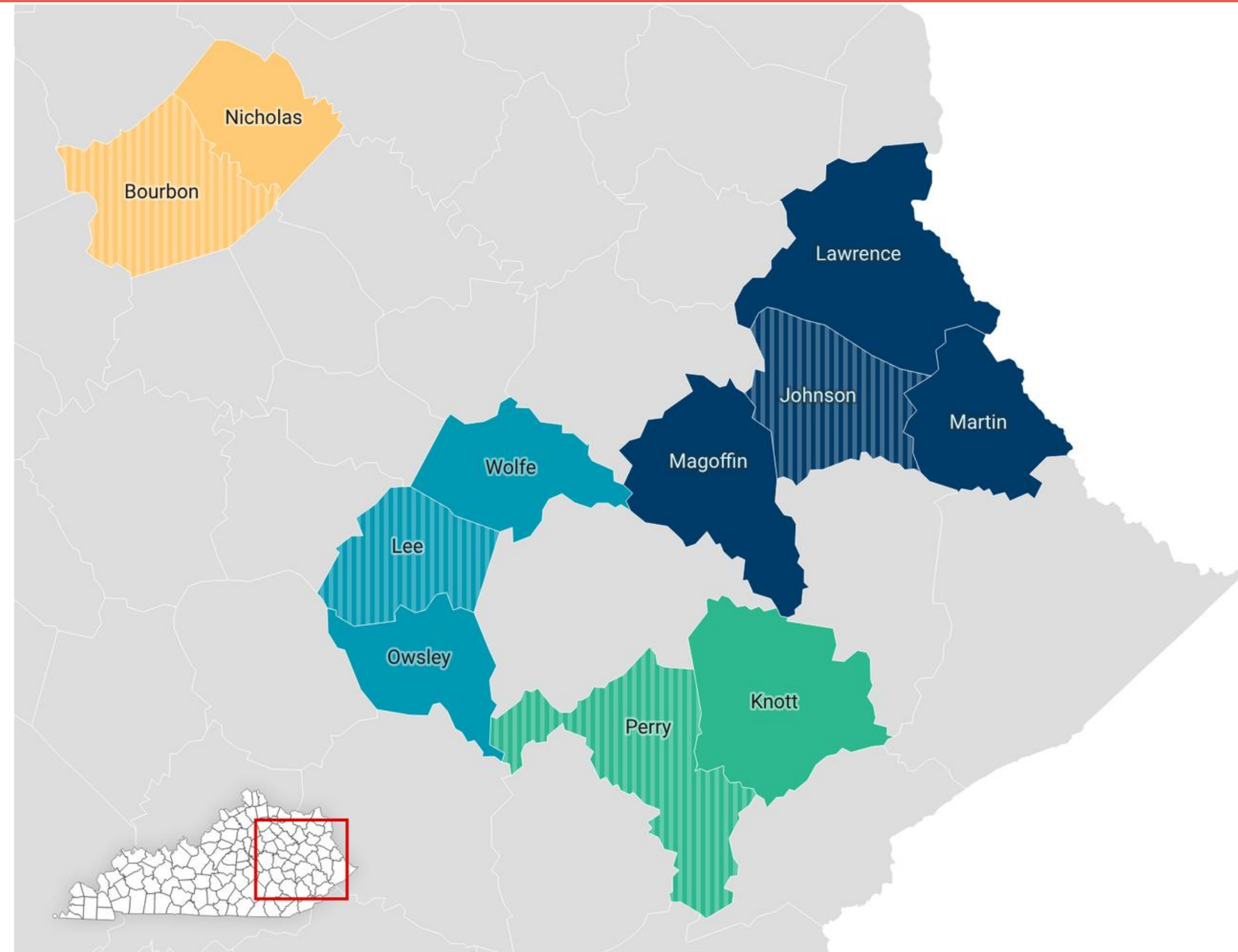


Regional jail authorities



RJAs are created by ordinance of participating counties and **governed by a multi-county board** rather than a single fiscal court.

KRS 410.800-820



■ Big Sandy Regional Detention Center ■ Bourbon County Regional Jail ■ Kentucky River Regional Jail ■ Three Forks Regional Jail

||| Denotes county where regional jail authority is located

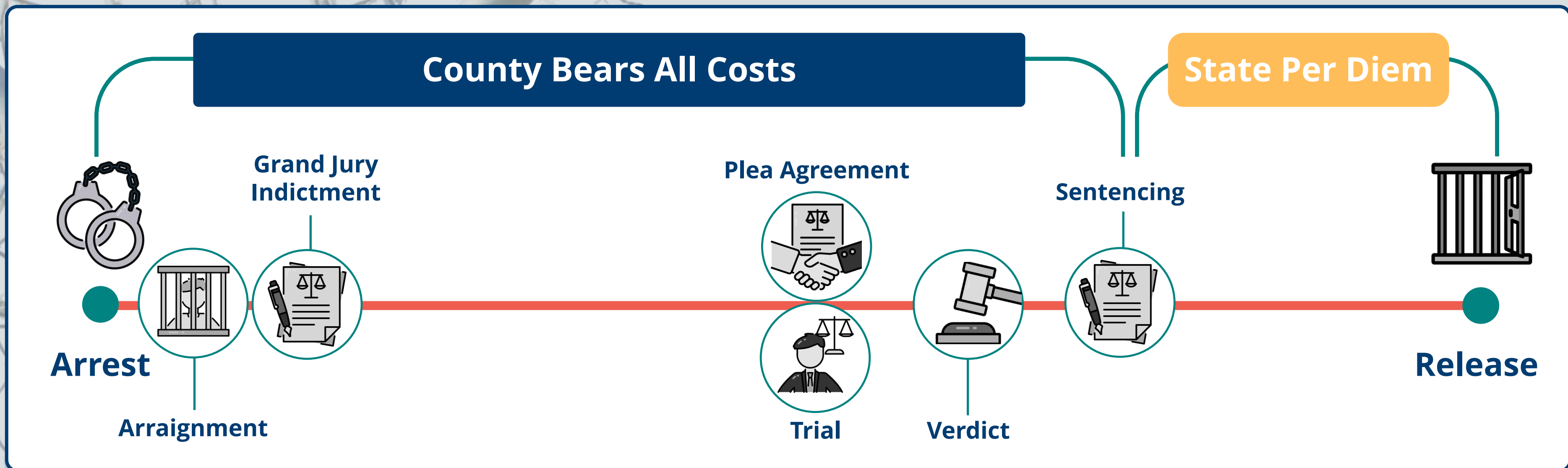
Incentivize regional jails

- Establish a process for RJAs to apply for funding from the state for **construction of new facilities or expansions and improvements** of existing facilities.
- Provide a **\$1 million incentive grant** to any fiscal court that establishes a new RJA or joins an existing RJA; provide a **\$500,000 incentive grant** to each county already in an RJA that agrees to accept a new county into the authority.
- Allow **96-hour holdover** facilities.
- Allow the jailer of each county participating in a RJA to automatically be a **member of the RJA board**.

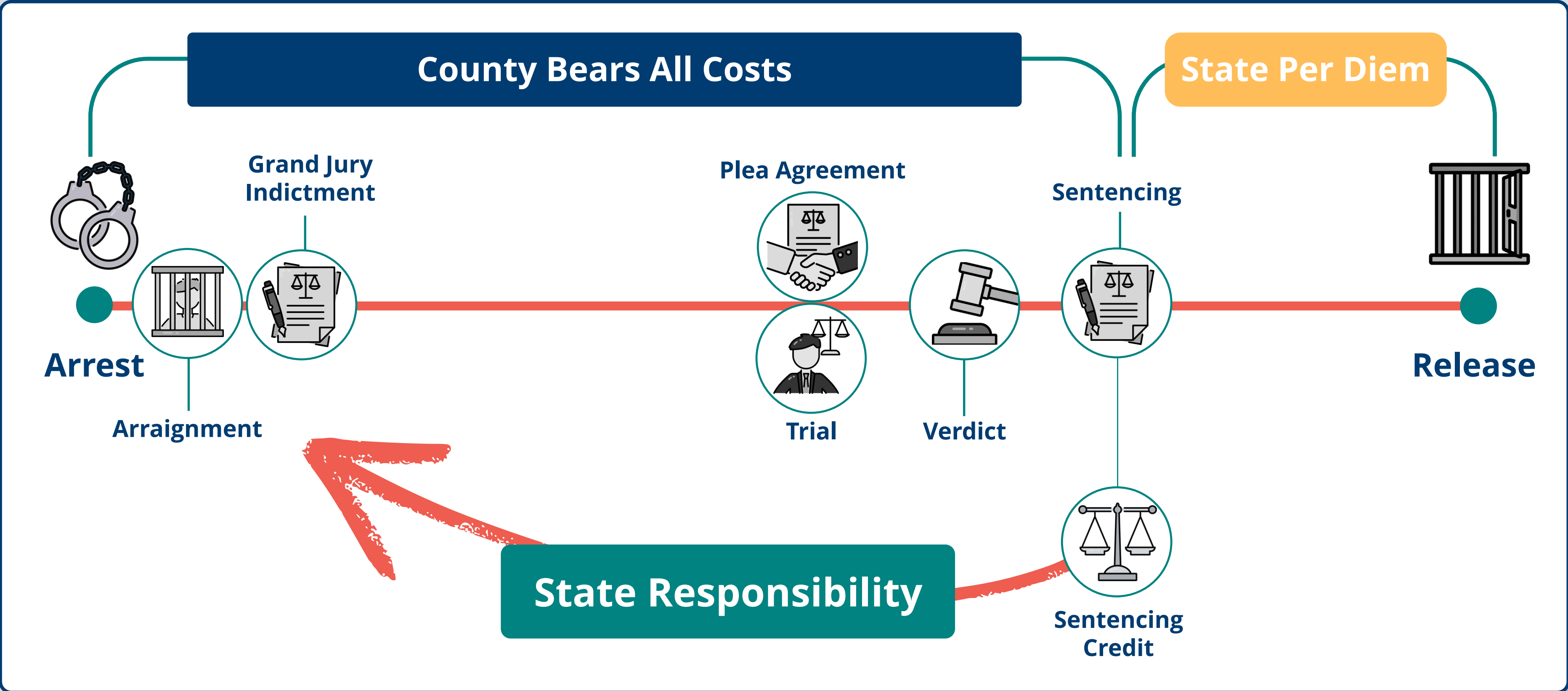
Clarify Responsibility for Pre-Trial Felony Detainees



Who's responsible: Felony charges



Credit for time served



Clarify Responsibility for Pre-trial Felony Detainees:

- **Credit for time served:** reimburse counties for the credit for time served an inmate receives when sentenced on a felony charge.
- ***Fiscal impact:***
 - \$35.34 per diem = approximately \$81 million
 - \$63.44 per diem* = approximately \$146 million

*Based on actual cost estimate

Redefine State Inmate Housing Model



County jail population



Federal Inmates (2,766)

State Inmates (7,098)

County Inmates (10,490)

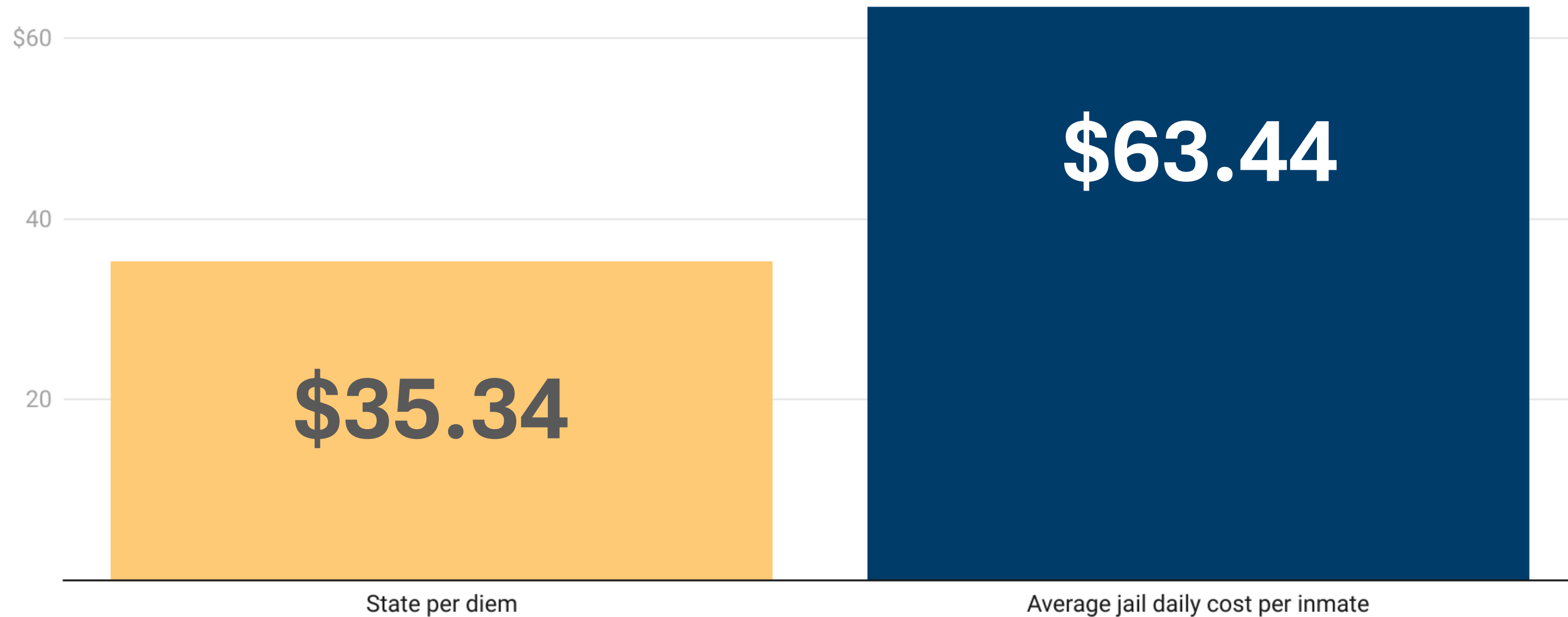
**Kentucky Jail Population
FY2026**

Kentucky Department of Corrections,
Weekly Jail Report,
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

State inmate per diem



FY2025 state per diem vs actual jail costs



Source: KACo analysis of Uniform Financial Information Reports, FY2025 (excludes Fayette and Jefferson)

501 KAR 2:080E

- **Emergency regulation** took effect Aug. 17, 2026
- **New definitions** for “routine care” and “beyond regular and routine care.”
- Previous definitions: counties reimbursed only for care requiring hospital stay of at least one night or general anesthesia.
- ***Fiscal impact:*** \$12 million additional in county reimbursements for state inmate medical care based on the new definition.
- Note: New regulation applies to **state inmates**.

Redefine State Inmate Housing Model:

- Require DOC to have **contracts** with each fiscal court or regional jail authority based on **actual costs**.
- Require jails to provide **inmate programming** and a **daily medical presence**.
- **Limit transfer** of state inmates without prior DOC approval.
- ***Fiscal impact:*** Approximately \$53 million



Questions?