

Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost

The fiscal impact of HB 156 on local government is expected to be an unknown savings.

As a point of information, the Kentucky Fire Commission notes that there are approximately **3,182 full-time paid firefighters**, as defined in KRS 75.400 and approximately **17,139 volunteer firefighters**. The Kentucky Fire Commission pays the cost of worker's compensation insurance for volunteer firefighters.

The Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association, Kentucky Fire Commission, Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs, and Kentucky League of Cities, indicated the bill will result in savings to local governments. The Kentucky Fire Commission will process and pay for worker's compensation claims, rather than local governments. Because the claims will be paid through the Kentucky Fire Commission, the resulting costs for local governments will **decrease**. A representative from the Kentucky Association of Counties noted that county governments **will not** experience as much of a decrease as cities, because cities have more full-time and volunteer firefighters.

The Kentucky Association of Counties indicated that cancer presumption legislation may save counties in the short term, but budget constraints would create additional costs for them in the long-term.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Fire Commission, Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association, Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties

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