

Section 2 retains language providing certain exemptions from provisions of the statute but adds that these exemptions must be in conformity with “standard” “reasonable”, “lawful” and “recognized methods,” as set forth.

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

The fiscal impact of HB 177 HCS on local government is expected to be minimal.

The bill provides protections for animals by an expansion of the definitions of cruelty and neglect. Some additional time and effort for training would be required concerning the expanded animal care provisions of KRS 525.010 and KRS 525.130.

Although the bill relocates language, it makes no changes to the statute regarding animal fighting definitions or penalties. However, two provisions of KRS 525.130 could result in additional fines or jail time. First, there could be some increased instances of cruelty to animals in the second degree, punishable by a Class A Misdemeanor. Second, the change in Section 2 (2) effectively makes its provisions relate to all “**actions taken with regard to animals**” rather than just to “**killing of animals**”. This could result in some additional fines or Class A Misdemeanor charges and jail time.

While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$31.34 per day. The number of new charges are expected to be limited, thus the new costs are expected to be minimal.

Data Source(s): LRC staff, KY League of Cities; KY Association of Counties, Ky Association of Chiefs of Police; KY Sheriffs Association; KY Animal Control Association

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