Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2015 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 829
Bill #: HB 182
Bill Subject/Title: An ACT relating to mental health.
Sponsor: Rep. Fitz Steele
Unit of Government: x City x County x Urban-County Unified Local x Charter County x Consolidated Local x Government
Office(s) Impacted: peace officers; sheriffs
Requirement: x Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties:x _ Modifies Existingx _ Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

HB 182 requires that persons released from hospitals after involuntary hospitalization for mental health issues, and who are transported (returned) by a sheriff or other peace officer, must be transported by the sheriff or peace officer of the county from which the patient was originally sent. Currently, the statute does not specify which agency or which county is responsible for transportation, the county in which the hospital is located or the county from which the patient was originally sent.

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

The fiscal impact of HB 182 on local government is expected to be minimal.

There would be a shift of responsibilities from more urban and metropolitan areas (where hospitals are located) to more rural areas of the Commonwealth. Also, there may be some shift of transportation responsibilities from counties in which hospitals are owned by county governments (there are 15) to sheriffs and police officers in the surrounding counties where patients live.

There may be some time, effort, and cost to more rural communities. Factors include, the degree to which the Cabinet for Health and Family Services reimburse local governments for the transportation of discharged patients, and the amount of time sheriffs and local officers would spend on transportation rather than on other law enforcement duties. Likewise, there would be some minimal positive impact on cities and counties in which hospitals are located, as costs are shifted from the location of service to the location of the patient. In summary, to the extent that sheriffs and police officers are used for transporting discharged patients, the costs will be more evenly distributed throughout counties of the Commonwealth.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Association of Counties; Kentucky Association of Chiefs of

Police; Kentucky League of Cities; KY Sheriffs Association; KY Department for Local Government; Cabinet for Health and Family

Services

Preparer: Hank Marks **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 2/9/15