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

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 55	
Bill #: HB 59 GA	
Bill Subject/Title:	AN ACT related to the interference of the operation of an aircraft
Sponsor: Representative Reginald Meeks	
Unit of Government:	xCityxCountyxUrban-CountyxCharter CountyxConsolidated LocalxGovernment
Office(s) Impacted:	Correctional Facilities
Requirement: <u>x</u>	Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties:	Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing
Part II: Purpose and Mechanics	

This bill makes it a Class A misdemeanor or in more serious offenses a Class D felony to knowingly point any light from a laser or any other source towards an aircraft which may interfere with the vision of a person operating the aircraft.

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

The fiscal impact of HB 59 on local government is expected to be minimal.

Implementation of HB 59 would make pointing a laser at an aircraft with the intent to impair the vision of the operator a Class A misdemeanor. In more serious offenses, the individual can be found guilty of a Class D.

Federal Aviation Administration data for 2013 reflects 99 laser occurrences in Kentucky that year; the majority of which occurred in the airspace of Kentucky's three major airports, Louisville International Airport – Standiford Field (38), Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport located in Covington, KY (28) and Bluegrass Airport in Lexington, KY (15). Danville and Liberty had five occurrences; the Ft. Campbell/Hopkinsville airspace had three, and Bardstown, Bowling Green, London,

Russellville, and Sturgis each had one occurrence. The Federal Aviation Administration makes available a detailed chart of the 2013 occurrences.

A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for no less than 90 days and up to one year. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 77 full service jails or five life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$33.26 per day including medical costs.

When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 77 full service jails or five Life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$33.26 per day including medical costs. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$33.26 per day to house a D felon. Since the per diem pays for the estimated average cost of housing a Class D felon, the per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

Data Source(s): Federal Aviation Administration, Kentucky State Police

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 12/30/14