

# CORRECTIONS IMPACT STATEMENT

SESSION: 15RS BILL #: SB 15 Introduced BR #: 19 DOC ID#: BR001900.100 - 19 - 193

BILL SPONSOR(S): Sen. Neal AMENDMENT SPONSOR(S):

SUBJECT: AN ACT relating to the abolition of the death penalty.

## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION:

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 532 to abolish the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without parole for inmates presently sentenced to death; amend various sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to eliminate the term "capital offense" and replace it with Class A felony; amend KRS 532.030, relating to authorized dispositions for felony offenses, to permit imprisonment for life without parole and imprisonment for life without parole for 25 years for offenses formerly denominated as capital offenses; amend KRS 533.010, relating to probation, to prohibit probation for a person sentenced to life without parole or life without parole for 25 years; amend KRS 640.040, relating to penalties for juveniles convicted of felony offenses, to authorize imprisonment for life without benefit of parole for 25 years, but not life imprisonment without benefit of parole, for a Class A felony which was formerly a capital offense; repeal various statutes relating to imposition of the death penalty.

This  bill  amendment  committee substitute is expected to:

Have the following Corrections impact  Have no Corrections impact

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creates new crime(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeals existing crime(s)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases penalty for existing crime(s)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreases penalty for existing crime(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases incarceration                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreases incarceration                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces inmate/offender services                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Increases inmate/offender services      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increases staff time or positions                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces staff time or positions         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes elements of offense for existing crime(s) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otherwise impacts incarceration (Explain) _____              |  |

**STATE IMPACT:** Class A, B & C felonies are based on an average daily prison rate of \$60.38. Most Class D felons are housed in one of 79 full service jails for up to 5 years. DOC's cost to incarcerate a felony inmate in a jail is \$32.92 per day (includes jail per diem, medical & central office costs), not including substance abuse treatment. Projections are based on the daily rate x 365 x number of years.

**Projected Impact:**  NONE  MINIMAL  MODERATE  SIGNIFICANT

Potential Savings: Section 001 Abolishes capital punishment. There are currently 34 inmates on death row in Kentucky. Abolishing the death penalty would cause these inmates to serve life without parole.

There would no longer be a need for a dedicated unit and officer for death row. The "death house", an isolated facility at Kentucky State Penitentiary, could be repurposed. Other costs associated with executions would be eliminated. These include lethal injection drugs, handling of the body (ambulance, coroner, crematorium, etc.), the execution team (training and overtime pay), and added security for the public, press, etc. Costs for the use of law enforcement from local and state governments would be eliminated as well as costs the state bears for legal appeals available to death row inmates.

Given that the state has conducted only three executions since capital punishment was reinstated in the United States in 1976, holding these offenders for life would not significantly impact the department's budget.

**LOCAL IMPACT:** Local governments are responsible for the cost of incarcerating individuals charged with Class A or B misdemeanors and felony defendants until disposition of the case. While the expense varies by jail, this estimated impact will be based on \$32.25 per day, which equals the per diem and medical that DOC pays jails to house felony offenders.

Creates no new misdemeanor offenses.

## The following offices contributed to this Corrections Impact Statement:

Dept. of Corrections  Dept. of Kentucky State Police  Administrative Office of the Courts  Parole Board  Other

**NOTE: Consideration should be given to the cumulative impact of all bills that increase the felon population or that impose new obligations on state or local governments.**

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Corrections

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Date