

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

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1065

Bill #: SB 184 GA

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to jailers

Sponsor: Senator Danny Carroll

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local
Government

Office(s) Impacted: Jails / Fiscal Courts

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

SB 184 GA establishes criteria for setting the salaries of jailers **who do not operate full service jails**. This proposal allows a fiscal court to establish two rates of pay – one for incumbent jailers and one for a newly elected jailers. Proposed salaries shall be based on longevity in office, job performance, and cost of living adjustments. **The requirement that the compensation must be at least equal to the prior year’s compensation is removed.**

These no-jail jailers will be subject to the following conditions which are required to be formalized in ordinance by the fiscal court by May 1 of each year. The ordinance will detail the proposed compensation and the duties to be performed by the jailer in the upcoming fiscal year.

The jailer shall submit to fiscal court on a quarterly basis a summary of all duties performed by the jailer and jailer’s deputies. This will include details related to prisoner transport including the prisoner’s name, the location and time the prisoner was placed in the custody of the jailer for transport, and the location and time the jailer relinquishes custody of the prisoner after transport, and the mileage driven.

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

The fiscal impact of SB 184 GA on counties is likely to be a minimal to moderate savings for those counties where the jailer has minimal duties. The salary adjustments and any subsequent savings or additional compensatory cost are discretionary and determined by the fiscal court.

There are currently 41 counties that maintain the office of jailer, but do not have a jail. These counties either have chosen to close their jails because of rising cost, or have been forced to close because of failure to meet minimum state standards.

Without jails, most of these jailers have sparse or minimal duties, if any. A small number of these jailers may transport prisoners or accompany them to court.

The state’s no-jail jailers are paid nearly \$1.5 million annually for their county positions. Salaries range from \$20,000 to \$77,243 and average \$36,160. If these counties decrease the jailer’s salary to the minimum amount of \$20,000, you would see total savings of \$662,000 annually. However, whereas the proposal allows fiscal courts of the effected counties to assign duties to the jailer and to provide compensation as determined by the fiscal court, the maximum savings might not be realized.

This proposal does not address deputy salaries in the affected counties.

Below is a list of no-jail counties:

Anderson	Edmonson	Harrison	Lyon	Metcalf	Robertson
Bath	Elliot	Henry	Magoffin	Morgan	Spencer
Bourbon	Fleming	Johnson	Martin	Nicholas	Trigg
Bracken	Gallatin	Knott	McCreary	Owen	Trimble
Breathitt	Garrard	Lawrence	McLean	Owsley	Washington
Carlisle	Green	Lee	Menifee	Pendleton	Wolfe
Cumberland	Hancock	Livingston	Mercer	Perry	

Data Source(s): LRC staff

Preparer: Wendell Butler **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 3/4/15