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

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 215	
Bill #: SB 34 GA	
Bill Subject/Title:	AN ACT relating to driving under the influence and declaring an emergency
Sponsor: Senator Dennis Parrett	
Unit of Government:	City X County X Urban-County Unified Local X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted:	County jailer
Requirement: X	Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties:	Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

SB 34 GA would amend several sections of KRS Chapter 189A so that legal consequences may be enhanced for multiple DUI convictions within a ten year period, rather than a five year period.

KRS Chapter 189A prohibits a person from operating or being in control of a motor vehicle with a certain blood alcohol concentration or while under the influence of alcohol combined with other substances that impair driving ability, or under the influence of listed controlled substances (DUI), and establishes the fines and jail time for doing so. Under current law, the legal consequences (fines, jail time, license revocation, etc.) for these and related DUI offenses are enhanced for each offense occurring within a five year period.

SB 34 GA would amend KRS 189A to increase the "look back" period for capturing prior DUI offenses for purposes of enhancement from five years to ten years.

Section 6 would amend KRS 189A.330 (1) to require a court clerk to report to the court all DUIs that have not been resolved within 180 days, instead of the current 90 days.

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

The fiscal impact of SB 34 GA on local jails is expected to be moderate.

During FY 2014, 23,993 individuals were convicted of a DUI offense. The majority of convictions were for first time offenses. In 2014, there were 18,917 individuals convicted of a first offense DUI, 4,048 individuals convicted of a second DUI, 891 individuals convicted for a third time, and 137 DUI 4th convictions.

SB 34 GA would look back ten years for prior DUI convictions instead of the current five years, allowing additional prior DUI convictions to be captured. This increase would mean more DUI second, third, and fourth offense convictions, resulting in more jail time.

Increased jail time may increase local jail costs or potentially be a source of additional revenue. Local governments are responsible for the cost of incarcerating an individual who does not make bail when charged with a Class A or Class B misdemeanor, and individuals convicted of one of these offenses.

To the extent the bill increases convictions for DUI 2nd and 3d (misdemeanors) costs to local jails would go up. A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to one year. A person convicted of a Class B misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 90 days. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 78 full service jails or five life safety jails. Local governments are also responsible for the cost of incarcerating persons charged with a felony (if they do not make bail) until disposition of their case. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional misdemeanant or felon inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$31.34 per day. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who do not will cost local jails an average of \$31.34 per day.

To the extent the bill increases convictions for DUI 4th (Class D felony) it could result in additional revenue to local jails. Upon sentencing, most Class D felons are housed in one of Kentucky's 78 full service jails for the duration of their sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$31.34 per day to house a convicted Class D felon. Since the per diem pays 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): Administrative Office of the Courts, LRC Staff, Kentucky County
Attorney's Association

Preparer: Mary Stephens **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 2/18/15