

collected on minerals severed in that county, with 10% of that amount allocated to incorporated cities within the county. In the event that a tax refund is issued which reduces the total tax collections, the local allocation is therefore also reduced. The local share of the refunded amount is paid by reducing the current quarterly allocations as necessary, including carrying the refund forward to future quarterly allocations if the current quarterly amount is insufficient to satisfy the refund in full.

Such a reduction in the local allocation would often be unexpected and, depending on the size of the refund, may in some cases result in a financial hardship on a county or city that had already budgeted the estimated LGEAF receipts.

HB 52 GA changes the formula used for allocating Local Government Economic Development Funds and Local Government Economic Assistance Funds back to the coal producing counties. HB 52 GA proposes to use a ratio of coal severed in each respective county to the coal severed statewide. Currently, a ratio of coal tax collected is used.

HB 52 GA would lessen the local impact by amending KRS 42.470 to provide that a mineral producing county's quarterly LGEAF payment may be reduced by no more than 50% as a result of any tax refund issued to the taxpayer severing and/or processing the minerals in the county. If a tax refund is paid and the county's allocated share of the refunded amount is greater than 50% of its quarterly payment, the remainder would carry forward to be offset in successive quarters as necessary until it is accounted for in full.

HB 523 GA provides that if the amount of funds allocated to an incorporated area is less than \$25 in any given quarter, then the allotment shall be distributed to the county to which the funds were allocated.

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

HB 52 GA would have no impact on the total amount of local LGEAF allocations over time. Eventually, the full local share of any tax refund would be paid just as it is today. However, the bill would have a positive impact within any given quarter in which more than 50% of the allocation would be offset by the state under current procedures to account for a refund.

In any case where the local share of the amount to be refunded is more than 50% of a county's allocation, this bill would act to smooth out the offset over time, thereby reducing the current negative impact on relevant local governments.

This bill relates to tax refunds, which may arise in a multitude of taxpayer-specific situations. It is impossible to accurately estimate the number and amount of refunds that may occur that would impact any given county's LGEAF allocations under the provisions of this bill. Furthermore, the impact on local governments would not be uniform across the state, but would vary based on refunds paid and the amount of minerals severance tax collected in each county.

HB 52 GA declares an emergency to ensure an effective date coinciding with the start of the fiscal year, July 1, 2016.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, near identical to RS 2015, HB194

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