Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2016 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 338						
Bill #: SB 40 GA						
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to open juvenile proceedings.						
Sponsor: Senator Julie Raque Adams						
Unit of Government:XCityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment						
Office(s) Impacted: Sheriff						
Requirement: Mandatory X_ Optional						
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing						

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

The purpose of SB 40 GA is to request that the Kentucky Supreme Court institute a pilot project to study the feasibility and desirability of opening juvenile court proceedings related to dependency, neglect, and abuse and to termination of parental rights to the public, except proceedings related to sexual abuse. Section 1 of the bill would create a new section of KRS Chapter 21A to establish the parameters of the pilot project, including a project duration of 4 years, and monitoring of the project by the Administrative Office of the Courts to determine whether there is demonstrated a benefit to litigants and the public. Section 2 of the bill would create a new section of KRS Chapter 21A to direct courts chosen for the pilot project to open some or all of their juvenile court proceedings to the public and to set parameters for attendees on disclosure of information obtained during proceedings. Section 2 would also provide that a court participating in the pilot project may close a juvenile hearing on consideration of all relevant circumstances and including 7 enumerated circumstances.

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

SB 40 GA would have a minimal to moderate fiscal impact on local governments.

The pilot project proposed by SB 40 GA would last for 4 years. The fiscal impacts discussed would continue for as long as the pilot project continues and if the changes were made permanent. The Kentucky Sheriff's Association reports that many juvenile cases have multiple defendants and require more deputies than "adult" court. The Association believes that opening juvenile courtrooms to the public would require an additional 1 to 2 deputies for each courtroom to insure adequate security in juvenile as well as other courts. KRS 64.092 (6) provides that the Commonwealth shall compensate sheriffs or other law enforcement personnel at \$8 an hour for providing services to a Circuit or District Court (juvenile court is a division of district court). Sheriff's offices also receive disbursements from the court costs distribution fund provided for in KRS 42.320(2)(i) to help defray the cost of providing security services to the court and related activities. That statute provides that 10.1% of each court cost deposited in the court costs distribution fund, up to \$5,050,000, shall be paid to the county sheriff in the county where the court cost was paid.

The 2015 Comprehensive Survey Final Report issued by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training and based on survey responses of Kentucky law enforcement agencies reported that the average Kentucky sheriff's office entry level salary in 2014 was \$28,435.59. The salary ranged from a low of \$17,000 to a high of \$48,000. Seventy-two of 76 sheriff's offices reported they employ certified court security officers (CCSO's) to provide courthouse security, the majority of which are part-time positions. The average salary for CCSO's was reported at \$19,483.20, although it is not known whether that represents the average part-time or full-time salary. Reported salary figures do not include benefits payable to or on behalf of personnel.

If sheriffs must hire additional court security personnel to comply with SB 40 GA and the \$8 an hour from the Commonwealth plus the court costs distribution fund disbursements do not defray the entire costs of the new personnel, the local fiscal court may vote to cover the excess costs. Whether the fiscal impact is a minimal one or a moderate one would depend on the existing size of the sheriff's office and the size of the tax base in the area served. The financial burden of hiring 1 to 2 additional court security personnel would fall heavier on small sheriffs' offices such as the one in Carlisle County, with 2 full-time sworn officers serving a population of 5,104, as compared to the large sheriff's offices. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, for example, employs 247 full-time sworn officers serving a population of 741,096. Local governments also are obligated to pay some related costs. For example, fiscal courts are responsible for providing uniforms, office space, and records maintenance space for the county sheriff's office.

Data Source(s): Administrative Office of the Courts; Kentucky Sheriff's Association; Department of Criminal Justice Training

Preparer:	Mary Stephens	Reviewer:	JWN	Date:	2/22/16
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