

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

Currently, most jurisdictions have policies in place regarding any suspicious deaths. Those policies dictate a post-mortem examination and a report filed with the Office of State Medical Examiner. SB 55 would make such procedures statutory. KRS 72.025 currently requires post-mortem exams when death occurs under specific conditions including homicide or violence.

The impact will be dependent on the number of ARDs within a specific jurisdiction. The statistics below reflect that between 2003 and 2009, no more than 7 jurisdictions per year had ARDs, and those jurisdictions averaged less than 2 ARDs. If the coroner hires an examiner to perform the post-mortem examination, the cost on average is less than \$5,000 and is dependent on how detailed an examination is required¹⁻². If the coroner or State Medical Examiner performs the post-mortem exam, then the majority of the cost will be absorbed in house.

The following Kentucky statistics were derived from Bureau of Justice data: 2003-2009³:

Number of reported ARDs in Kentucky, 2003-2009: 38

Number resulting from homicide: 26

Number resulting from non-homicidal causes: 12 (suicide, intoxication, accident, natural causes)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of arresting agencies with at least one reported arrest-related death, by jurisdiction:	3	1	4	2	4	6	7
Number of reported arrest-related deaths, by jurisdiction:	3	2	4	2	6	9	12
Average arrest-related deaths per agency, by jurisdiction:	1	2	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.7

Data Source(s): 1. usaforensics.com
2. www.americanautopsy.com
3. Bureau of Justice, November 2011, Arrest-Related Deaths, 2003-2009
Statistical Tables.

General References: Franklin County, Kentucky Coroner's Office and
Franklin County, Kentucky Sheriff's Office

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