

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

SB 96 imposes a minimal negative fiscal impact on counties without full service jails by requiring the relevant Fiscal Courts to pass an ordinance and by requiring jailers to file quarterly reports with those Fiscal Courts.

SB 96 will have an indeterminable positive fiscal impact on counties without full service jails, but it is likely to be a nil to minimal savings for those counties. SB 96 does not allow for a decrease in the salaries of jailers who do not operate full service jails. At the most, a fiscal court may, at its discretion, deny a jailer a cost-of-living adjustment.

SB 96 requires a Fiscal Court to pass an ordinance each year that sets forth: the duties of a jailer not operating a full service jail and his or her salary. The salary shall be equal to or greater than the salary from the previous year and may include a cost of living adjustment. **Minimal cost** will be associated with drafting and advertising the ordinance under the provisions of KRS Chapter 424 and placing the ordinance on the local Fiscal Court docket for consideration.

SB 96 requires the jailer to submit to Fiscal Court on a quarterly basis a summary of all duties performed by the jailer and jailer's deputies. **Minimal cost** will be associated with the jailer keeping a record of the duties performed, filing the quarterly report, and answering questions propounded by Fiscal Court and others.

According to the Department of Corrections, there are currently 37 counties that maintain the office of jailer but lack a full service jail. These counties either have chosen to close their jails because of rising cost or have been forced to close them because of failure to meet minimum state standards.

Most jailers without jails have sparse duties. Some of these jailers transport prisoners or accompany them to court.

These jailers are paid nearly \$1.4 million annually for their county positions. Salaries range from \$20,000 to \$70,000. **SB 96 does not provide for reducing these salaries but allows a fiscal court the discretion to deny one of these jailers a cost of living adjustment. As a result, the salary portion of SB 96 will have an indeterminable positive fiscal impact on counties, but the fiscal impact is likely to be a nil to minimal savings for those counties where a jailer does not operate a full service jail.**

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

Data Source(s): Department of Corrections; Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting (Only in Kentucky: Jailers Without Jails, January 2, 2015); LRC Staff

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