

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

The fiscal impact of SB 14 HCS is indeterminate and will be minimal. There will likely be an indeterminate increase in felon arrests and incarcerations. The fiscal impact of felony incarcerations and substance abuse programs on local governments and county jails is described below.

When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 76 full service jails or five life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$31.34 per day. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$31.34 per day to house a D felon. Since the per diem pays for 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.

When a court denies bail to a Class C felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 76 full service jails or five life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an estimated average of \$31.34 per day. Class C felons are ineligible for placement in local jails until they are classified at the lowest custody level with 18 months or less to their minimum expiration date or parole eligibility date. The Department of Corrections pays local jails \$31.34 per day to house these Class C felons. Since the per diem pays for the estimated average cost of housing a Class C felon, the per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

Substance Abuse Program:

Eighteen full service jails provide an in-patient substance abuse program (SAP) to nearly 1,100 convicted felons incarcerated in the jails. The estimated average cost of jailing a convicted felon participating in a SAP is \$40.34 per day. This amount is reimbursed by the Department of Corrections and is \$9 more than the estimated average cost of \$31.34 per day reimbursement. Since the \$40.34 per diem pays for the estimated average cost of housing a convicted felon participating in a SAP, the per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Jailers Association; Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police; Kentucky; Kentucky Sheriffs Association; Kentucky Department of Corrections

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