

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2018 Regular Session**

REVISED 1/18/2018

**Part I: Measure Information**

Bill Request #: 1046

Bill #: HB 194

Document ID #: 2036

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to welding safety.

Sponsor: Rep. Jill York

Unit of Government:  City                       County                       Urban-County  
 Unified Local  
 Charter County     Consolidated Local     Government

Office(s) Impacted: Building inspections offices & all local government construction projects

Requirement:  Mandatory     Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing     Adds New     Eliminates Existing

**Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government**

A new section of KRS Chapter 198B is created to establish definitions relating to welders and welding. The bill mandates welding standards for general contractors, project managers, contractors, and subcontractors in all projects involving structural steel welding. Welders performing structural steel welding on a project shall have been tested and certified by an accredited testing facility. Structural steel welding performed on a project shall be inspected by a certified welding inspector per job specification.

The effect of this bill is indeterminable. The requirement that inspectors be AWS certified is the mandate upon local governments. The bill would require local governments to use a welding inspector who has been certified by the AWS. The certification, training, continuing education, and recertification costs may be in the thousands for just one inspector, according to the AWS website under "Prices". KLC

doesn't know how many city employees or current building inspectors already hold certifications from AWS. Similarly, KLC doesn't know how many welders in Kentucky currently are certified by AWS, so they aren't able to determine exactly what financial impact the legislation would have on public projects.

On the other hand, KLC points out that the new requirements could increase building safety. An added benefit for local governments, in KLC's opinion, is that certified inspectors might save local governments money. In those instances where welding does not meet standards a certified inspector may catch these errors and correct them, increasing safety, but also preventing costly reconstruction or modifications later.

In sum, the certification and testing requirements cost in the thousands. But it is not known how many additional local building inspectors will have to be certified under the provisions of the bill. It is also possible that the certification process will yield greater safety and prevent costly changes to structures post-construction and therefore may save local governments money in the long-term.

### **Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions**

The Part II section above pertains to the bill as introduced and there are not any prior introduced versions of the bill to complete the Part III section.

**Data Source(s):** JD Chaney, Ky League of Cities

**Preparer:** JFPL **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/18/18