



Although KRS Chapter 527 does not define minor and juvenile, both terms are generally understood to mean individuals under the age of 18.

**The fiscal impact of HB 31 on local governments is expected to be minimal.**

The Kentucky State Police was contacted in reference to similar legislation filed for the 2017 legislative session. However, their database is not conducive to obtaining definitive statistics regarding unsecured firearms. They were able to ascertain that in 2016, there were 39 instances where the word “minor” appeared in crime narratives. *The inclusion of the word minor in the narrative does NOT necessarily mean that a minor was part of the crime and may only clarify that a “minor was or was not present”.* Of those 39 instances, a handgun was used 17 times in the commitment of a crime. The data does not identify whether or not the handgun was secured or not.

What we may ascertain from the above data is that there were 17 or fewer crimes committed by or where a minor *may* have been present in which a handgun was used. . The number is low.

According to a Lexington Herald-Leader article dated July 21, 2017, a total of 36 children were shot in the previous five years in Kentucky with an unsecured firearm, and 15 of those children died from the shooting, the remaining 21 were wounded, sometimes with permanent, life-altering injuries. Of those shootings, the average age of both the shooters and the victims was 9 years old, the youngest being 1. However, it’s rare for parents to be prosecuted after such shootings even when they are entirely at fault for what happened. There tends to be huge sympathy for the parents.

Persons in violation of the provisions of HB 31 will be found guilty of either a Class A or Class B misdemeanor.

A person convicted of a Class B misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 90 days. A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to one year. Misdemeanants are housed 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. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who do not will also cost local jails an average of \$31.34 per day.

**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):** Kentucky State Police; LRC Staff; Kentucky Department of Corrections

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