Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2019 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1259						
Bill #: HB 239 GA						
Document ID #:4841						
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to welding safety.						
Sponsor: Rep. Sal Santoro						
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County Unified Local						
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government						
Office(s) Impacted: Building inspections offices & all local government construction projects						
Requirement:x Mandatory Optional						
Effect on Powers & Duties:x _ Modifies Existingx _ 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. In some cases, the cost might be significant. The requirement that inspectors be AWS certified is the mandate upon local governments. The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) does not know how the American Welding Society standards are different from the Kentucky Building Code standards, if at all (since the American Society of Mechanical Engineers is cited in the Kentucky Building Code under the "welding" section).

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". Consequently, KLC states that a city could pay those entire costs for their employees, or they'd have to pay a private inspector per use on a project. KLC doesn't know how many city employees or current building inspectors already hold certifications from AWS. If very few do, then the costs would grow. KLC states that the other requirements might increase costs marginally for contractors and subcontractors, who would then pass the costs on to the local governments for public projects. 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.

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

The LM statement to HB 239 GA is the same as the LM statement to HB 239 as introduced. No substitutes or amendments were adopted when the bill passed the House.

Data Source(s):		Kentucky League of Cities			
Preparer:	JFPL	Reviewer:	KHC	Date:	2/25/19