

Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 896

Bill #: 244

Document ID #: 1457

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to cruelty of animals.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Graviss

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

Office(s) Impacted: Law enforcement and jails

Requirement: X Mandatory ___ Optional

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

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

BR 896 expands the elements relating to cruelty to animals in the second degree by removing the requirement that an animal have four legs before a person may be guilty of causing an animal to fight for pleasure or profit. This is a Class A misdemeanor.

The fiscal impact for this part of the bill is indeterminable to minimal. The expansion of the law's application to any animal, rather than just animals with four legs, could result in increased prosecutions and convictions, but it is not possible to determine the number. There could be some increased cost for local law enforcement investigations.

A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to twelve months. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 76 full service jails or four life safety jails. *A new full service jail is expected to open in late 2019, after it opens, Kentucky will have 77 full service jails and three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, this estimated impact will be based on \$31.34 per day, which equals the per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house

felony offenders. 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

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as drafted.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Department of Corrections

Preparer: Robert Jenkins **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/13/20