# Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

## **Part I: Measure Information**

Bill Request #: 187
Bill #: HB 31
<b>Document ID #:</b> 341
Bill Subject/Title: An ACT relating to carrying concealed weapons.
Sponsor: Representative Charles Booker
Unit of Government: X City X County Y Urban-County Unified Local
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Sheriffs Offices, Jails
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New X Eliminates Existing

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

This legislation provides that a person aged twenty-one (21) or older and otherwise eligible to obtain or maintain a concealed deadly weapons carry license (CCDW) may carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons at any location at which an unconcealed firearm or other deadly weapon may be constitutionally carried. No person is allowed to carry or possess any deadly weapon where it is prohibited by federal law.

Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit is a Class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant has been previously convicted of a felony in which a deadly weapon was possessed, used, or displayed, in which case, it is a Class D felony.

Section 3 of this bill repeals KRS 237.109, Authorization to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapons without a license.

Currently, a CCDW license is not required in Kentucky, but for those individuals who desire to carry concealed in states that offer reciprocity for those with CCDW permits, a

CCDW is required. Individuals who meet established qualifications may submit an application to the Sheriff in the county for where the individual resides. The Sheriff's office forwards the application to the Kentucky State Police (KSP) to process the application and conduct background checks. The application fee is \$60, of which the Sheriff's office retains \$20 for office expenses.

The chart below reflects the aggregate number of CCDW applications processed by KSP since 2016. The latest data provided by KSP was for calendar year 2018.

	2016	2017	2018	Since Inception (1996)
New Applications Received	64,140	34,134	35,031	488,398
CCDW Issued	63,683	33,872	34,408	471,644
Renewals Issued	37,535	40,758	64,235	356,468
<b>Total Issued</b>	101,218	74,630	98,643	828,112
\$20 retained by Sheriff*	\$2,024,360	\$1,492,600	\$1,972,860	\$16,562,240

<sup>\*</sup>amount only includes fees for issued permits

As of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, SB 150 passed by the General Assembly, went into effect, thereby eliminating the requirement for a CCDW permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon.

Information on the number of applications and permits processed since that date is not currently available. It is unknown how many new CCDW requests or CCDW renewal applications will be received after June 28, 2019. It is likely many of the current holders of a CCDW will renew their licenses before expiration, in order to be able to carry in states that offer reciprocity to Kentucky CCDW permit holders. New CCDW applications are likely to decline. In either case, until data from 2019 is available, forecasts on the number of CCDW permits that may be issued is undeterminable.

In FY19, there were 1,453 convictions in 1,429 cases for carrying a concealed deadly weapon, all Class A misdemeanors. Likewise, there were 1,869 convictions in 1,509 cases of convicted felons in possession of a firearm and/or handgun, which are Class D felonies. A single case may have one or multiple charges.

#### **Class A misdemeanors:**

A person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to twelve months. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 77 full service jails or 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.

#### **Class D felons:**

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 77 full service jails or three 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, which equals the per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house felony offenders. 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.

The fiscal impact of this legislation on sheriff's offices has the potential to be moderate due to a potential increase of issued CCDW permits and retaining \$20 of the permit fee. Reinstating the requirement for a CCDW permit to carry a concealed firearm will impact local jails as described above. The impact on jails for this legislation is expected to be similar to levels experienced prior to implementation of SB 150 in 2019. This impact is expected to be minor to moderate.

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

Part II, above, is drafted to the bill as introduced.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff, Department of Corrections, Kentucky State Police

**Preparer:** Mark Offerman **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/8/20