Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1211							
Bill #: SB 111 GA							
Document ID #: <u>5101</u>							
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to the transportation of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, coroners, and deputy coroners killed in the line of duty.							
Sponsor: Sen. Phillip Wheeler							
Unit of Government:XCityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment							
Office(s) Impacted: County level government and coroners' offices							
Requirement: <u>X</u> Mandatory Optional							
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing X Adds New Eliminates Existing							

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

SB 111 GA requires a coroner to make certain that the remains of a police officer, firefighter, emergency services personnel, or a coroner or deputy coroner who has been killed in the line of duty are returned to the family or other responsible part in a professional manner so as to obscure the contour of the remains. At the family's request, the coroner would make certain that the decedent was covered by an American flag. The bill also permits the coroner, after speaking with the family or other responsible party, to have the decedent returned to the family/party responsible by a funeral home or a designated transport service.

SB 111 GA would have a nil to very minimal fiscal impact on local governments. The only requirement of the bill is for the coroner to ensure that the decedent is returned in a professional manner that obscures the contour of the remains, along with a flag draped over

the remains at the request of the family. The coroner is permitted to speak with the family about making alternate arrangements for the return of the remains.

There would be very little, if any, cost associated with the bill. The Kentucky Coroners Association has indicated that coroners possess the capability of transporting remains in such a manner as to obscure the contour. Some coroners may already have a flag that could be used. A flag, if requested, would also be provided at no cost if the person is a United States veterans, and there is the possibility that flags could be donated. According to US Flagstore.com, a 5' x 9.5' United States interment flag may be purchased for approximately \$50, if in fact a flag must be purchased.

According to the United States Fire Administration, Kentucky had 0 firefighter in-line-ofduty deaths in 2019, 1 in 2018, and 2 in 2017. According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Kentucky had 2 police officer in-line-of-duty deaths in 2019, 4 in 2018, and 1 in 2017. The occurrences requiring the return of a decedent under this bill should be minimal.

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

Part II, above, refers to SB 111 GA, which was the same as SB 111 SCS 1 with the exception of a title amendment. The fiscal impact of SB 111 GA is the same as SB 111 SCS 1.

The fiscal impact of SB 111 SCS 1 changed from that of SB 111 as introduced. SB 111 SCS 1 made the following changes to the introduced version:

- required the coroner to transport the remains in a professional manner that covers the contour of the remains, rather than transporting in a casket or similar vessel;
- deleted the requirement that the fiscal court bear the expense of obtaining a casket or similar vessel;
- deleted prohibition against the family keeping the interment flag; and
- permitted the coroner to speak with the family to arrange alternate transportation by a funeral home or other transport service.

Data Source(s):	LRC Staff; Kentucky Coroner's Association;			
	https://www.usflagstore.com/Official_US_Interment_Flag_p/60-100-			
	06999.htm (accessed Febuary 13, 2020); United States Fire			
	Administration, apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-			
	fatalities/fatalitydata/reportBuilder; Officer Down Memorial Page,			
	odmp.org/search/year; Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police			

Preparer: 1	Robert Jenkins	Reviewer:	KHC	Date:	2/24/20
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