

The fiscal impact is indeterminable but minimal to perhaps moderate, depending on the city or county and its budget and the welding certification status of employees.

The bill would **require local governments to use welders who have been tested and certified by an accredited testing facility, or by an individual who has been accredited by the American Welding Society to test and certify welders and welding inspectors** (if the job specifications include the D1.1 or D1.5).

If the job specifications include the D1.1 or D1.5 requirements, then the cost of using a certified welder and a certified welding inspector could result in minimal project cost increases. A local government could pay for the expenses of an employee to become an AWS certified structural steel welder or AWS certified welding inspector, or it could pay a private AWS certified welder or AWS certified welding inspector. There are no required courses for a person with a talent for welding to be eligible to take the welding certification test. If the person can pass the test, the person can become certified. Thus, the total cost to become an AWS certified welder would be a few hundred dollars. The cost for training and testing to be an AWS certified welding inspector can be \$3,000 to \$4,000.

The Kentucky League of Cities reported that there could be slightly increased costs to cities for direct labor and inspection. KLC also indicated, “The costs for certification and testing range from several hundred dollars each year to over \$1,000 for the inspectors. These individuals will most likely increase their fees to make up for the cost of certification. That will slightly increase maintenance and construction costs.”

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

Part II, above, pertains to the GA version. The GA version is the same as the bill as introduced. No amendments or substitutes were adopted when the bill passed its chamber of origin.

Data Source(s): Kentucky League of Cities; Kentucky Association of Counties; American Welding Society; Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association; LRC staff

Preparer: H. Marks **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/15/21