



guardians ad litem and court-appointed counsel and that statistical information cannot be produced.

The Finance and Administration Cabinet maintains a special account under KRS 31.185 that is funded by counties and used for reimbursement of expenses for Department of Public Advocacy (DPA) attorneys representing the indigent, but the GAL and court-appointed counsel fees in HB 420 would not qualify for reimbursement by that fund (or any other fund maintained by the cabinet) if the appointment is of a private attorney and not a DPA attorney. Thus, these funds would be an additional expense on counties.

There can be several thousand involuntary hospitalization proceedings alone each year. It is not possible to determine the number of guardians ad litem or court-appointed counsel that would be appointed under the statutes in question, but of those appointments, there would likely be a high percentage that would ultimately require county reimbursement because of an indigency finding for the primary payment obligor.

The Kentucky Association of Counties reported that the bill would be an unfunded mandate that could have a moderate to significant impact, depending on the number of guardian ad litem fees paid.

### **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):** LRC Staff; Finance and Administration Cabinet; Administrative Office of the Courts; Kentucky Association of Counties

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