## Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2022 Regular Session

## **Part I: Measure Information**

Bill Request #: 308			
Bill #: HB 117 GA			
<b>Document ID #:</b> <u>6168</u>			
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to welding safety.			
Sponsor: Representative Bobby W. McCool			
Unit of Government:       X       City       X       County         Multiple       Multiple       Multiple       Multiple       Multiple         Unified Local       Multiple       Multiple       Multiple       Multiple			
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government			
Office(s) Impacted: Fiscal Court			
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional			
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies ExistingX_ Adds New Eliminates Existing			

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

The bill creates a new section of KRS Chapter 198B (relating to Housing, Buildings, and Construction, and the Building Code) to mandate that all general contractors, project managers, contractors, and subcontractors, when structural steel welding projects call for D1.1 or D1.5 in job specifications, require the following:

- testing and certification by an accredited testing facility for welders and
- Structural steel welding performed to meet welding standards.

D1.1 means the current version of the Structural Welding Code- Steel, approved by the American National Standard from the American Welding Society (AWS). D1.5 means the current version of the Bridge Welding Code, approved by the American National Standard from the AWS jointly with the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials.

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

This 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. There are only four AWS accredited testing sites in Kentucky, but certified inspectors can travel to certify welders throughout the commonwealth. The total costs including testing fees and travel to become an AWS certified welder can range from \$300 to \$1,000. The cost for training and testing to be an AWS certified welding inspector can be \$3,000 to \$4,000.

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

Part II, above, refers to HB 117 GA version. The GA version is the same as the bill introduced. It passed its chamber of origin without any amendments or substitutes.

Data Source(s):	: <u>Kentucky Association of Counties; American Welding Society; Kentucky</u>		
County Judge/Executive Association; LRC staff			
Preparer: K. Sal	llee/mjo Reviewer: MKDL	<b>Date:</b> 2/25/22	