

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): Kentucky Association of Counties; American Welding Society; Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association; LRC staff

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