



collected, after costs and commissions, to be paid to the Department of Agriculture, to be credited to the animal control and care fund with 50% to be used to fund spay/neuter clinics and 50% to be used for block grants to county animal shelters. The bill also removes the term of imprisonment for the violations.

Section 4 amends the definition of “assistance dog” in KRS 525.010 (Penal Code) by requiring the dog to have been trained to work, provide assistance, or perform tasks for the benefit of the person with a disability, or provide support that alleviates at least one of the symptoms or effects of a disability, and by eliminating the reference to a dog that meets the requirements of KRS 258.500.

**The fiscal impact for the bill is indeterminable yet minimal.** Counties may receive additional funds under the bill by virtue of additional money for spay/neuter clinics and for block grants for county animal shelters. The amount would depend on the number of fines levied and collected and the applications received from the counties for their animal shelters.

The bill eliminates the term of imprisonment for certain offenses related to violating the rights of persons with assistance animals. Current law allows for imprisonment in the county jail for a period of 10 to 30 days. The elimination of imprisonment would result in fewer incarcerations and a cost savings of approximately \$35.43 per day at the local jail’s expense. There could be violations for persons misrepresenting a dog as an assistance animal, but this would result only in fines with no incarceration.

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

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff

**Preparer:** MJO **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/10/22