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

**Part I: Measure Information** 

Bill Request #: 1827
Bill #: _ HB 590 GA
Document ID #: 7885
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to jails.
Sponsor: Representative Michael Meredith
Unit of Government: City X County Urban-County Unified Local
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Jails
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

HB 590 GA amends KRS 441.265 to require a prisoner in a county jail to begin paying fees from the prisoner's booking date to reimburse the county for expenses incurred. If the prisoner is not convicted of any charges as a result of the prisoner's arrest, the county jail shall waive any outstanding expenses owed by the prisoner and reimburse the prisoner for any expense already paid. This does not apply to expenses related to a prior arrest or for property damage or injury caused by the prisoner while confined to jail.

For 2022, the Department of Corrections can charge inmates up to \$50 per day. This amount shall be adjusted going forward based on the Consumer Price Index.

The legislation sets procedures by which automatic deductions from a prisoner's canteen account may be made by the jail. It permits up to 100% of an initial deposit and up to 50% of subsequent deposits to be deducted for any amount owed by the prisoner associated with confinement for a prior arrest and fees and expenses related to property damage or injury.

The fiscal impact of HB 590 GA is indeterminable. HB 590 GA could have a significant impact on counties and county detention centers, depending on the number of people that are arrested but are not convicted of the crime for which they were arrested. Additionally, the impact could be greater in counties with higher populations and higher arrest rates as well as counties with jails that serve multiple counties. Currently, the Kentucky Department of Corrections' (DOC) offender management system does not track preadjudication detainees. Requests for additional data from DOC the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have been made, but the data cannot be easily and quickly extracted. Upon receipt of additional valid data, this mandate will be updated.

Local governments are responsible for the cost of incarcerating individuals charged with Class A or B misdemeanors and felony defendants until disposition of the case. The estimated impact will be based on the \$35.43 cost to incarcerate for DOC, which includes \$31.34 per diem and medical that DOC pays jails to house felony offenders. This cost to incarcerate may not be the actual housing cost for the jail.

If a person is arrested, housed in a county jail until such time as the person is found to be not guilty, released on bond or bail, or has his or her charges dismissed or dropped, and there is no conviction for a crime, counties would be responsible for the entire cost of housing the person while in custody.

AOC records indicate that the total median number of days spent in pre-trial custody by defendants for felony Circuit Court cases is 108 days with the median number of days for Class D offenses of 71 days, 111 for Class C offenses, 191 for Class B offenses, and 343 for Class A offenses. It is likely defendants were in custody from arraignment to indictment as well. Felony cases in District Court had a total median stay of 42 days. The median stay for Class D offenses was 37 days and 113 days for Class A offenses. This is representative of the offense level for those in pretrial custody and not related to the corresponding disposition. To provide a comparison, DOC reports the number of days spent in custody prior to a sentence of felony incarceration for 2021 was 173.5 days.

The following is presented solely as a form of reference, jail costs of defendants who are incarcerated but not convicted of a crime:

- 10 days of incarceration would cost county jails approximately \$350 per inmate.
- 50 inmates housed per day would cost jails approximately \$1,770.
- 100 inmates housed for 50 days each would cost approximately \$177,150.

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

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced and passed by the House. The fiscal impact to the GA version remains the same as the bill as introduced.

**Data Source(s):** Kentucky Department of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Courts, LRC Staff

Preparer: MJO (kls) Reviewer: KHC Date: 3/15/22