Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2022 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 833			
Bill #: SB 184			
Document ID #: 164	46		
Bill Subject/Title:	An Act Relating to co	proners.	
Sponsor: Senator Da	avid Yates		
Unit of Government:	City	X County	X Urban-County Unified Local
	X Charter County	X Consolidated Local	
Office(s) Impacted: County coroners, fiscal courts			
Requirement:	Mandatory X O	ptional	
Effect on Powers & Duties:	Modifies Existing	Adds New E	liminates Existing

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

Currently, KRS 72.450 requires a coroner, when in possession of an unclaimed body, to either bury the body at the expense of the fiscal court or donate the body to a state medical school. **SB 184** amends KRS 72.450 to permit the coroner to cremate the body at the expense of the fiscal court. In the event of utilizing the cremation option, the coroner shall store the remains in an appropriate final resting place with a permanent marker indicating the decedent's name and dates of birth and death, if known.

The fiscal impact of SB 184 on fiscal courts is expected to be positive but minimal when coroners choose cremation in lieu of burial. The cost of burial and the cost of cremation vary due to factors surrounding the cause of death, the availability of crematories, the availability of government-owned burial space, and the fiscal court's ability to negotiate costs associated with disposing of remains. In almost all cases, cremation is cheaper.

Most fiscal courts establish a reimbursable allowance per burial. It is expected that fiscal courts would establish lower reimbursement rates for cremations as well if the measure is enacted.

The Kentucky Coroners Association was contacted for input. As of the submission of this Local Mandate Statement, a response has not been received from the organization. When a response is received, the statement may be updated accordingly.

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: K. Sallee (ms) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/2/22