

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2023 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 1295

**Bill #:** HB159

**Document ID #:** 2620

**Bill Subject/Title:** AN ACT relating to firearms and declaring an emergency.

**Sponsor:** Representative Savannah Maddox

Unit of Government:  City  County  Urban-County  
Unified Local  
 Charter County  Consolidated Local  Government

Office(s) Impacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

Effect on  
Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing  Adds New  Eliminates Existing

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

HB 159 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 527 that makes it unlawful for any identified entity to enforce or assist in the enforcing any federal law that does not exist under the laws of Kentucky and that limits firearm ownership. An offense under this legislation would be a Class B misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class A misdemeanor for each subsequent offense.

HB 159 grants the Attorney General to file a civil action in Circuit Court to enforce the prohibition; permits citizens to file complaints with the Attorney General for violations of the prohibition; makes federal agents subject to arrest for enforcing probation or attempting to arrest local or state officials.

**The fiscal impact of HB 159 is indeterminate, but may include an increase in the number of incarcerated inmates housed in local jails.**

A person convicted of a Class B misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to 90 days and a person convicted of a Class A misdemeanor may be incarcerated for up to twelve months. Misdemeanants are housed in one of Kentucky's 74 full-service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, this estimated impact is based on an average cost to incarcerate of \$40.11 per day. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who are not will also cost local jails an average cost to incarcerate of \$40.11 per day.

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

The analyses presented in Part II above was based on HB 159 as introduced. No previous versions exist for comparison.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff; Department of Corrections

**Preparer:** CTH (WB) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/23/23