Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2023 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 950
Bill #: SB 79 GA
Document ID #: 5205
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to the Safe at Home Program.
Sponsor: Senator Julie Raque Adams
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County Unified Local
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Local Government
Requirement: Mandatory _X_ 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

SB 79 GA would amend various statutes which establish the crime victims' address protection program, renaming it the Safe at Home Program. The program authorizes the use of designated mailing addresses for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, sexual assault, rape, and other sexual crimes, as well as for their minor children and all other individuals residing with the victim. This is done in order to protect the privacy of victims' and their families from their abusers.

Section 2 of SB 79 GA adds definitions of "Application Assistant" and "Human Trafficking" for the purposes of the bill. Application assistant is defined as a private individual, employee or volunteer of a government agency (including local governments), or an employee or volunteer of a nonprofit program, who has been designated by the respective agency or program, and who has been trained and registered by the Secretary of State to assist individuals in establishing a safety program and in the completion of program applications.

Section 6 establishes the role of application assistants, requires the Secretary of State to establish a training program for application assistants, and requires application assistants to become recertified every three years after completing an initial training program. Application assistants exist to explain the Safe at Home Program to applicants, assist them in formulating a general safety plan, and direct them to additional support services.

SB 79 GA would likely have minimal, if any, fiscal impact on local governments. As the Safe at Home Program already exists as the broadly similar crime victims' address protection program, the bill would not place a substantially greater administrative burden on local governments to recognize designated addresses. However, the bill expands eligibility for the program by adding an eligible offense (human trafficking), allowing anybody who resides with a victim to be eligible, and relaxing criteria which make an applicant eligible. This would likely result in more applicants but the program is run through the Secretary of State's office, not through any local government, so the impact, if any, would likely be small.

The bill's provisions on application assistants may have a slight effect on local governments' administrative capacities. The bill states that application assistants may be employees or volunteers of a government agency, though they may also be private individuals or employees or volunteers of a nonprofit organization. However, if an employee of a local government agency decides to be an application assistant, their labor as such may divert the capacities of their employer, which could result in costs in the form of overtime for employees who must cover for them. However, this effect would likely be small and the bill does not require that employers allow an employee to be an application assistant, if it diverts from their workplace responsibilities.

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

Part II refers to SB 79 GA. The GA version of the SB 79 is the same as the bill introduced. SB 79 passed its chamber of origin without amendments or substitutes.

Data Source(s): LRC staff

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