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

**Part I: Measure Information** 

Bill Request #: 1098
Bill #: SB 87
Document ID #: 1938
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to gun safety for children
Sponsor: Senator Gerald A. Neal
Unit of Government: X 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: Modifies ExistingX Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

SB 87 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 527 making it a crime to unlawfully store a firearm. Under this offense, a firearm is recklessly stored by allowing a minor to have unsupervised access to an unsecured firearm and which the minor accesses without permission. The crime of recklessly allowing a minor to access an unsecured firearm is a Class A misdemeanor, unless a physical injury or death occurs which would then result in a Class D felony.

A firearm is considered secured by placing it in a secure lock box or container; by using a device or mechanism, other than the safety, to render the firearm temporarily inoperable; or by carrying the firearm on the body.

Although it is not possible to determine how many convictions this legislation would generate, data from the Administrative Office of the Courts for fiscal year 2021 show a total of 64 cases of possession of handgun by minor (KRS 527.100), including 8 cases of unlawfully provide or permit minor to possess handgun. There were 27 convictions, 23 of

which were first offenses-Class A misdemeanors. LRC staff has requested FY 2022 data from AOC and this document will be updated when these new figures are available.

The proposed statute refers to firearms and not just handguns, however the data available from AOC tracks handguns separately from deadly weapons which includes firearms.

## The overall expected fiscal impact of this bill to local governments is expected to be minimal.

Class A misdemeanor: 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 will be 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.

Class D felons: When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 74 full-service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an average cost to incarcerate of \$40.11, which includes the \$35.34 per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house felony offenders. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full-service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$35.34 per day to house a Class D felon. The per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

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

Part II above is based on SB 87 as introduced. There are no previous versions.

 Data Source(s):
 LRC Staff; Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

 Preparer:
 CTH (WB)
 Reviewer:
 KHC
 Date:
 2/15/23