Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2024 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1501						
Bill #: HB 253						
Document ID #: <u>3120</u>						
Bill Title: AN ACT relating to animal control officers.						
Sponsor: Representative Susan Witten						
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County Unified Local						
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government Office(s) Impacted: Local governments that employ, appoint, or contract with an animal control officer						
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional						
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing X Adds New Eliminates Existing						

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

Section 1 of HB 253 creates a new section of KRS 258.095 to 258.500 and would require local governments that employ, appoint, or contract with an animal control officer to ensure that their animal control officers receive training in child abuse and neglect recognition and reporting.

The trainings may be in person or virtual. The trainings must cover the following topics:

- recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
- reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and the appropriate documentation;
- responding to the child; and
- understanding the response of child protective services.

All current animal control officers must complete the training by January 31, 2025, and then every two years afterward. Every animal control officer hired after January 31, 2025, must complete the trainings within a ninety (90) day period after being hired.

Section 2 of HB 253 amends KRS 620.030 to add animal control officers to the list of reporters that are named explicitly in statute; however, in Kentucky all persons are required to report if a child is believed to be dependent, neglected, or abused to the proper authorities.

The fiscal impact to local governments is negligible. The mandated trainings can be incorporated into existing trainings for new and existing animal control officers.

LRC reached out the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) and KLC responded that HB 253 as proposed may have a negative fiscal impact on cities. The impact would be a result of the increased time commitment and cost of implementing the additional training. Training is a professional service that cities typically contract out. Expanding the current training offered due to the new requirement could result in an additional contract or an increase in the cost of the current contract to integrate any new training. Additionally, added costs for cities could occur as the trainings are either updated or expanded.

A final additional cost for cities may be additional time and administrative resources spent investigating potential crimes, or in court if a crime does occur because more cases have been identified. As a result, HB 253 as proposed may result in a negative fiscal impact for cities.

LRC staff also reached out to the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo). If KACo provides information this mandate statement may be amended.

Data Source(s)	: <u>Kentucky Leag</u>	ue of Cities. Kentu	cky Association of	Counties. L	<u>RC Staff</u>
Preparer: Rya	an Brown (BL)	Reviewer: k	КНС	Date:	2/15/24