

the torture of a dog or cat. While this bill somewhat broadens what may be considered torture, it is not expected that the new language would result in a dramatic increase in convictions and incarcerations. However, each person convicted of a Class D felony as opposed to a Class A misdemeanor would represent savings for local jails if those offenders are instead housed in state correctional facilities. The estimated daily cost of incarcerating offenders convicted under this statute are detailed below.

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 \$44.97, 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.

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

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