Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2024 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 829							
Bill #: HB 26							
Document ID #: 835							
	AN ACT relating to unemployment insurance and declaring an emergency.						
Sponsor: Representaative Daniel Fister							
Unit of Government:	X City X County M M M M M M						
	X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government						
Office(s) Impacted: a local government that maintains volunteer firefighters							
Requirement: <u>X</u> 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 26 **Section 1** would amend KRS 341.030 to establish that money paid to volunteer firefighters as allowance or reimbursement for expenses incurred in responding to emergencies and for use of the volunteer's personal vehicle or other personal equipment in responding to an emergency, shall not be considered wages. The Act would take effect on passage and approval by the Governor and would be retroactive to March 6, 2020.

HB 26 would have no fiscal impact on local governments. According to the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet the allowance and reimbursements addressed in Section 1 of the bill are not currently considered or treated as wages for purposes of unemployment insurance fund contributions by employers, nor for purposes of benefits payable to a volunteer firefighter claimant. For this reason, specifying in HB 26 that such payments not be considered wages effects no change in their current treatment.

Input for this analysis was sought from The Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO). If KACO provides input this mandate statement may be amended.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet; Kentucky League of Cities

Preparer:	Mary Stephens (BW)	Reviewer:	KHC	Date:	1/16/24