



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 \$44.97 per day. While the majority of misdemeanor defendants are granted bail, those who do not will also cost local jails an average cost to incarcerate of \$44.97 per day.

Adding a new element to KRS 500.090 with firearm forfeiture and disposal may have a small, but negative impact to local law enforcement agencies, especially sheriffs' departments depending on the increase in the number of firearms confiscated, when the defendant is in violation of an order, and stored and the availability of storage space. However, KRS 500.090 states that a firearm shall be transferred to the Department of Kentucky State Police within 90 days.

The Kentucky Sheriffs' Association (KSA) and the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) believes the storage requirements of this bill may create an impact to local sheriff offices as well as other local law enforcement, especially smaller police departments. The anticipated impact is a result of the lack of space to store firearms and supplies or equipment necessary to maintain the stored firearms. KSA states that impounded firearms must be treated like evidence. This means that any additional storage space must be secure, have controlled and limited access, and the space must be environmentally controlled to prevent damage from heat and humidity, similar to an evidence room. FOP states that with most small sheriff offices and police departments, space is always an issue, especially for evidence rooms.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff; Department of Corrections; Kentucky Sheriffs' Association; Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police

**Preparer:** Bart Liguori (RB)      **Reviewer:** KHC      **Date:** 1/19/24