

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.

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.

HB 439 HCS would have a presently indeterminable but minimal negative fiscal impact on local jails and law enforcement. HB 439 HCS would create a new Class A misdemeanor and Class D felony. As such, there would be some increase in convictions and incarcerations. Since there is no conviction or incarceration history for either these new felonies or existing offenses as revised, it is not possible to estimate law enforcement or incarceration expenses to local governments as a result of HB 439 HCS. However, each person arrested, convicted, and incarcerated for violation of HB 439 HCS would represent an additional expense to local law enforcement and jails.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Kentucky Department of Corrections

Preparer: Brandon White (BL) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/7/24