

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2026 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #:	1416	Bill #:	HB 246
Document ID #:	2802	Sponsor:	Rep. Susan Witten
Bill Title:	AN ACT relating to animal control officers.		

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local

Office(s) Impacted: Local governments that employ, appoint, or contract with an animal control officer.

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Other Fiscal Statement(s) that may exist: Actuarial Analysis Corrections Impact
 Health Benefit Mandate State Employee Health Plan

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

HB 246 creates a new section of KRS 258.095 to 258.500 and would require the Animal Control Advisory Board to provide comprehensive evidence-informed training courses for animal control officers on child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and neglect.

The trainings may be provided in person or by utilizing currently available technology.

All current animal control officers shall complete the training by January 31, 2027. Animal control officers employed, appointed, or contracted after January 31, 2027, shall complete the training within 120 days of being employed, appointed, or contracted.

LRC reached out to the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) in 2025 for a similar bill (25 RS HB 194). KACo indicated that the fiscal impact of the measure on counties would be minimal to moderate depending on whether the training is implemented in person or virtually. In-person training would likely have a greater fiscal impact due to associated travel costs.

The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) believes that HB 246, as proposed, may have a minimally negative to no fiscal impact on Kentucky's cities. The potential cost for Kentucky cities may be the additional time and resources spent investigating potential child abuse crimes, or in court if a case has been identified and a crime occurred. Presently, 15 Kentucky cities either employ, or contract with the county, animal control officers.

The fiscal impact on local governments associated with the implementation of HB 246 is completely dependent on how the Animal Control Advisory Board chooses to provide the required training. The fiscal impact of HB 246 to local governments is likely to be minimal to moderately negative.

If the training is provided in-person, the fiscal impact on local governments could be moderately negative due to possible travel costs.

If the training provided is virtual and a fee is assessed, the fiscal impact on local governments will most likely be lower than in-person training.

If the Animal Control Advisory Board provides the training at no cost to the local government or sources the training from an entity that is willing to provide the training to local governments for little to no cost, the fiscal impact to local governments would likely range from minimally negative to no fiscal impact at all.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, KACo, KLC

Preparer: BW **Reviewer:** JR (MDA) **Date:** 2/2/26