Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2026 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #:	60	**Bill #:**	HB 4/SCS 1
Document ID #:	8863	**Sponsor:**	Rep. Marianne Proctor
Bill Title:	AN ACT relating to grooming a minor.		

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

Office(s) Impacted: Jails

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 4/SCS 1 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 510 to make it illegal under subsection (1)(a) for someone who is eighteen (18) years old to engage in grooming behavior directed at a minor who is under fourteen (14) years old with the intent to entice the minor to engage in sexual conduct with them or another person.

This bill also makes it a crime under subsection (1)(b) for a person in a position of authority or special trust, as defined in KRS 532.045, to engage in grooming behavior directed at a minor with the intent to entice the minor to engage in sexual conduct with them or another person; or develop an intimate or secretive relationship with the minor.

For a violation of subsection (1)(a), grooming a minor is a Class A misdemeanor, unless the minor is under twelve (12) years old, in which case it is a Class D felony.

For a violation of subsection (1)(b), grooming a minor is a Class D felony, unless the minor is under twelve (12) years old, in which case it is a Class C felony.

The fiscal impact of HB 4/SCS 1 is indeterminable, but expected to be negative. There are costs associated with the investigation of violations and incarceration of offenders.

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 $47.43 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 $47.43 per day.

When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is also responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of jails mentioned above. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an average cost to incarcerate of $47.43, 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.

When a court denies bail to a Class C felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition, just as above. The expense is estimated to be the same as that of housing a Class D felon mentioned previously. Class C felons are ineligible for placement in local jails until they are classified at the lowest custody level with 24 months or less to their minimum expiration date or parole eligibility date.

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

Preparer: JR **Reviewer:** TJ (MDA) **Date:** 3/27/26