

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

**Part I: Measure Information**

<b>Bill Request #:</b>	1693	<b>Bill #:</b>	HB 653
<b>Document ID #:</b>	5437	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Mary Lou Marzian
<b>Bill Title:</b>	AN ACT relating to civil rights.		

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

Office(s) Impacted:    Local Governments, Local Human Rights Commission

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**

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act, codified at KRS Chapter 344, updates civil rights laws to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity across multiple areas. It repeals and reenacts KRS 344.010 to define relevant terms and amends KRS 344.020 to expand the purpose of the civil rights chapter to include these protections. The legislation further amends statutes governing employment and labor practices, public accommodations, housing, real estate, financial transactions, insurance, and credit to ensure that discrimination on these bases is prohibited. It also updates provisions related to state and local human rights commissions to include enforcement authority for these protections, makes conforming changes to related statutes.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights' federal partners at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have determined that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is in fact prohibited under Title VII and Title VIII as discrimination based on sex.

**The fiscal impact is indeterminable but it is unlikely that this bill would result in any significant impact on local government.**

When consulted on this measure in 2021, the Commission anticipated an increase in the number of complaints they receive but did not expect a significant increase or impact on existing caseloads.

Any local government engaged in the identified commercial or related activities (e.g. rental properties) would have to conform and would be required to adopt conforming local ordinances. This bill would also require local governments with civil rights ordinances to amend their local civil rights laws to incorporate the language prescribed in this proposed bill. Local governments will incur costs associated with the drafting, publication, indexing and recording of adopted ordinances.

According to Kentucky League of Cities, most cities, especially the smaller ones, retain their city attorney on contract and pay on an hourly basis. Time spent drafting an ordinance is influenced by its complexity and the amount of research that is necessary. In FY 2023, the average hourly rate was \$117 to \$128. Rates for publishing legal notices vary greatly depending on the length of the publication, the number of times it needs to be published and the newspaper in which the publication is placed. Therefore, these costs are unknown.

Municipalities are required to revise their ordinances at least every five years to eliminate “redundant, obsolete, inconsistent, and invalid provisions.” The cost of this mandate would be less if the repeal or revision were done in conjunction with this periodic updating of ordinances.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff, Kentucky League of Cities

**Preparer:** HT **Reviewer:** BW (MDA) **Date:** 2/18/26