

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

**Part I: Measure Information**

<b>Bill Request #:</b>	BR 1222	<b>Bill #:</b>	SB 155 HCS 1
<b>Document ID #:</b>	8763	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Senator Jared Carpenter
<b>Bill Title:</b>	AN ACT relating to animal health emergencies.		

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

Office(s) Impacted:    Law enforcement, fire epartment, emergency services

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**

SB 155 HCS 1 **Section 1** would define “animal health emergency” as an incident or situation that poses a major threat to the safety or health of livestock, poultry, or other domesticated animal, causing or threatening to cause the spread of disease, starvation, deadly injury or other potential loss of life. **Section 2** of the Act would amend KRS 39A.100 to authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture in consultation with the state veterinarian, in the event of an animal health emergency of such severity or complexity as to require extraordinary emergency measures, to declare that an animal health emergency exists and, subject to orders of the Governor, exercise enumerated emergency powers, including seeking assistance from state and local government agencies, and from the Governor to seek federal aid.

House Committee Substitute 1 would delete the emergency declaration in the bill as introduced.

**SB 155 HCS 1 would have an undeterminable but likely no to minimal negative fiscal impact on local governments.** The fiscal impact of SB 155 HCS 1 would be unchanged

from the bill as introduced. The Department of Agriculture currently coordinates with local emergency management, and has done so in the 7 emergency cases dating to 2022. They have utilized local fire departments, police, and local road departments. The Department also has had support from county extension agents and Area Development Districts.

The local resources needed have typically been limited to 1-2 firefighters and one large water tanker. Given that the Department already uses local government emergency services and would also be authorized to seek emergency assistance from state government agencies, it is expected SB 155 HCS 1 would not increase costs to local governments above what they have historically incurred in animal health emergencies, so the bill would have no to minimal negative fiscal impact on local governments.

**Data Source(s):** Department of Agriculture; LRC Staff

**Preparer:** MS **Reviewer:** HT (MDA) **Date:** 3/19/26