



This bill makes AWS/ASME standards a legal requirement under KRS Chapter 198B, instead of just being recommended guidelines or best practices. This legislation does not apply to welding performed by homeowners or farmers on their own property. The requirements of the bill will take effect on January 1, 2027.

**The fiscal impact of SB 98/GA on local government is indeterminable but expected to be minimal to moderate.** The fiscal impact is unchanged from the bill as introduced. Local governments that manage construction projects involving structural steel (such as public buildings or infrastructure) will need to ensure compliance with the new standards. This could mean verifying that welders are properly certified and that welding meets AWS standards. However, these costs may be absorbed into project budgets and are not expected to significantly increase overall expenses.

If the job specifications include the D1.1 or D1.5 requirements, then the cost of using an independent certified welder and a certified welding inspector could result in project cost increases.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff

**Preparer:** HT **Reviewer:** MS (MDA) **Date:** 3/2/26