

**Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2017 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1230

Bill #: SB 222 GA

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to consolidated local governments

Sponsor: Senator Dan "Malano" Seum

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

Office(s) Impacted: Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Council

Requirement: x Mandatory X Optional

Effect on

Powers & Duties: x Modifies Existing x Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

SB 222 HCS would make a number of changes to the governance of a consolidated local government, and to the authorities of its legislative body. Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government is the only consolidated government in Kentucky so SB 222 HCS would affect only that local government.

Section 1 of the bill would amend KRS 67C.103 to reduce the number of regular meetings of the Louisville Metro Council from two to one per month. Section 1 would also require the council establish a Government Oversight and Audit Committee and would broaden the authority of the council to conduct audits and investigations of local agencies, boards, or commissions.

Section 2 would amend KRS 67C.105 to provide that in the event the office of mayor is vacated, the legislative council would elect a replacement and, if the council failed to do so timely, the Governor would appoint someone to fill the vacancy. Section 2 would also require that the mayor submit written contracts, subscriptions, agreements, or obligations exceeding the small purchase amount in a resolution to the legislative council for approval, and would require the mayor appoint a deputy mayor.

Current law provides at KRS 67C.115 that the county attorney shall serve as legal counsel to the consolidated local government. **Section 3** of SB 222 HCS would amend that statute to allow the consolidated local government council to retain their own legal counsel for the purpose of advice and consultation if they choose to do so.

KRS 67C.131 currently allows each legislative council member one (1) full-time staff person. **Section 4** of the bill would amend that statute to provide that the two (2) largest political caucuses may hire staff persons to meet the staffing needs for that caucus.

Section 5 of the bill would amend KRS 67C.139 to establish guidelines for appointments to statutory agencies, boards, and commissions.

Section 6 of the bill would amend KRS 67C.143 to provide that, in addition to requiring a 2/3 majority vote to remove a mayor or legislative council member, removal of an appointee to a board or commission by the council would also require a 2/3 majority vote. The bill would prohibit a removed appointee from serving in that same capacity for five (5) years.

Section 7 would amend KRS 65.003 to authorize the legislative council of a consolidated local government to delegate its subpoena power to a person or group responsible for enforcement of a code of ethics.

Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost

SB 222 HCS on Louisville/Jefferson Metro Government is indeterminable, but would likely be minimal to moderate.

Reducing the number of required meetings of the legislative council would represent a minimal cost savings to the consolidated local government.

The most direct impact of the bill would be an increase in expenses as a result of the additional staff SB 222 HCS would authorize, or require. The bill would require appointment of a Deputy Mayor. There is some indication that the mayor's chief of staff could serve as Deputy Mayor, though the bill would not require he or she do so. If that position did serve as Deputy Mayor then there would not be an additional cost for the Deputy Mayor's salary. The bill retains the provision allowing the legislative council's two (2) largest caucuses to hire additional full-time staff but eliminates any limit on how many additional staff may be hired.

Those provisions of the bill authorizing the council to hire their own legal counsel would also have a direct fiscal impact due to the potential for a substantial increase in the cost of contracted legal services paid by Louisville Metro.

The requirement that the council establish a Government Oversight and Audit Committee and extends the council's authority to investigate agencies, boards and commissions would require additional council and staff time, and resources.

Data Sources: Louisville Metro Revenue Commission staff; Louisville Metro Council; Louisville Metro Council staff; LRC staff

Preparer: Mary Stephens **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/13/17