



occurred under circumstances defined in KRS 72.025 to immediately notify the coroner or deputy coroner, and a law enforcement agency.

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

**The fiscal impact of SB 44 on local government is expected to be minimal.**

Currently, most jurisdictions have policies in place regarding any suspicious deaths. Those policies dictate a post-mortem examination and a report filed with the Office of State Medical Examiner. SB 44 would make such procedures statutory. KRS 72.025 currently requires post-mortem exams when death occurs under specific conditions including homicide or violence.

The impact will be dependent on the number of ARDs within a specific jurisdiction. If the coroner hires an examiner to perform the post-mortem examination, the cost on average is less than \$5,000 and is dependent on how detailed an examination is required<sup>1-2</sup>. If the coroner or State Medical Examiner performs the post-mortem exam, then the majority of the cost will be absorbed by those agencies.

The following ARD totals were obtained from the Federal Bureau of Justice and the Kentucky State Police.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of ARDs, State Totals <sup>3</sup>	3	2	4	2	6	9	12

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016-YTD
Number of ARDs, State Totals <sup>4</sup>	0	6	4	4	1	4	2

Historically, the vast majority of the ARDs occur in separate counties. Between 2003 and 2009, only three counties experienced multiple deaths.<sup>3</sup>

- Data Source(s):**
- 1. [usaforensics.com](http://usaforensics.com)
  - 2. [www.americanautopsy.com](http://www.americanautopsy.com)
  - 3. Bureau of Justice, November 2011, [Arrest-Related Deaths, 2003-2009 Statistical Tables.](#)
  - 4. [Kentucky State Police](#)
- General References:** [Franklin County, Kentucky Coroner’s Office and Franklin County, Kentucky Sheriff’s Office](#)

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