

The bill would require local governments to use a welding inspector who has been certified by the AWS. The certification, training, continuing education, and recertification costs may be in the thousands for just one inspector, according to the AWS website under “Prices”.

Consequently, KLC states that a city could pay those entire costs for their employees, or they’d have to pay a private inspector per use on a project. KLC doesn’t know how many city employees or current building inspectors already hold certifications from AWS. If very few do, then the costs would grow.

KLC states that the other requirements might increase costs marginally for contractors and subcontractors, who would then pass the costs on to the local governments for public projects. Similarly, KLC doesn’t know how many welders in Kentucky currently are certified by AWS, so they aren’t able to determine exactly what financial impact the legislation would have on public projects.

Data Source(s): Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties

Preparer: JFPL **Reviewer:** JWN **Date:** 2/15/16