

provides associated timelines. If the date of the local option election is stated in the petition as a day other than the day a primary or general election is held, then the petitioners, rather than the county, must pay the election costs.

In addition, SB 145 directs the petitioners to file the intent to circulate the petition with the county clerk before signatures are collected and, if the date of the local option election is stated in the petition as a day other than the day a primary or general election is held, post bond for payment of election costs with the Circuit Court within five days of filing the petition. SB 145 also clarifies that the name of the voter shall be legibly printed along with the signature on the petition and that the year of birth rather than the date of birth shall be listed on the petition.

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

With the average cost to counties conducting an election of \$2,000 per precinct; the savings to counties could range from minimal to significant, depending upon the composition of the territory (could range from one precinct to the entire county) and the number of territories within a county requesting local option elections per annum.

As counties currently pay for the costs of primary and general elections (apart from the state reimbursement of \$398 per precinct, \$199 each for primary and general elections), it is immaterial as to whether the petitioners pay for requesting a local option election on a day other than a primary or general election day or whether the local option election is added to the ballot of a primary or general election.

While counties would incur additional programming costs due to adding a new category to the ballot for a primary or general election that would not be incurred if the petitioners are covering the costs for a different day, the amounts are minimal. According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to 97 Kentucky counties, the costs would range from \$14 per precinct for larger counties such as Fayette with 291 precincts to \$45 per precinct for counties such as Franklin with 44 precincts.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Harp Enterprises

Preparer: Katherine L. Halloran **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 2/12/15