Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2015 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 408
Bill #: HB 214 GA
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to elections
Sponsor: Representative Darryl T. Owens
Unit of Government: City X County X Urban-County Unified Local
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing X Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

HB 214 GA requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to establish an electronic voter registration system by January 1, 2016. Currently, only qualified military and overseas voters are able to register to vote and to update their registration information online.

For those obtaining or renewing their driver's licenses on or after their eighteenth birthday, transmission of data between the Kentucky Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Kentucky's Voter Registration System (VRS) is already automated; requiring only a "wet ink" paper signature on a form presented to people obtaining or renewing their driver's licenses, for new voter registrations and registration updates. In the event of an address and/or name change; individuals, apart from military personnel, must obtain a duplicate driver's license in-person at their Circuit Court Clerk's office within ten days the change. Therefore, the update to the driver's license would trigger the address and/or name change in the voter rolls. This process would remain unchanged with this legislation.

In calendar year 2014, 54% of the 96,363 new voter registrations and registration updates in Kentucky were done through the DMV; leaving 43,924 paper (40,000 per annum average over the past five years) new voter registrations and registration updates that may

have been eliminated with online registration. It is unknown how many of the approximately 40,000 people per year either registering to vote or updating their registration information by completing a paper form would have done so via an electronic voter registration system.

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

Assuming that the SBE absorbs the costs of establishing an electronic voter registration system, the costs and savings to county governments with HB 214 GA would be minimal (savings to localities would be greater in states with lower levels of automated data integration between the DMV and VRS). Due to the low number of individuals in Kentucky currently either registering to vote or updating their registration information by completing a paper form and the possibility that many will continue to do so after the electronic voter registration system is implemented, as well as the necessity for county clerks to print and validate the data submitted online, the County Clerks Association anticipates minimal savings. Any savings would vary across counties, depending upon the number of those switching from completing a paper form to using the electronic voter registration system.

Data Source(s): Kentucky State Board of Elections (SBE), Kentucky County Clerks

Association, National Conference of State Legislators

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