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

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 256	
Bill #: SB 27 GA	
Bill Subject/Title:	AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 33 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to redistricting.
Sponsor: Senator Albert Robinson	
Unit of Government:	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

SB 27 proposes to submit an amendment to Section 33 of the Kentucky Constitution to the voters for ratification, using the following language on the ballot:

"Are you in favor of clarifying the standards for redistricting the state into Senatorial and Representative districts to give the General Assembly the authority to divide counties to accommodate population equality standards, and of requiring the General Assembly to remain in session, without pay to the members, if it fails to divide the state into districts by April 15 of the first even-numbered year regular session following receipt of the decennial census data?"

If voters ratify the constitutional amendment, the provision that as few counties as possible be divided during redistricting would be amended to specify that the General Assembly may divide counties "as reasonably necessary" to achieve population equality (+/-5%), as long as the divided county is given as many whole districts as possible before adding sections of contiguous counties. The number of divisions within any county shall be kept to a minimum.

The constitutional amendment stipulates that members of the General Assembly shall represent the new districts as defined by and on the effective date of the redistricting legislation and that the new districts shall apply to all elections after the effective date of the redistricting legislation.

Also, the General Assembly would be required to remain in continuous session, without pay to the members, for the sole purpose of redistricting if it fails to redistrict the state by April 15 of the first even-numbered year regular session following receipt of the decennial census data.

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

The fiscal impact of SB 27 on local governments due to adding a constitutional amendment to a ballot would be a minimal additional cost.

The Kentucky Constitution (Section 256) specifies that constitutional amendments are only added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years ("next general election for members of the House of Representatives"). Therefore the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2016.

According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to 97 Kentucky counties, there are additional programming costs associated with adding a new category to the ballot on an already scheduled statewide election. For example, the cost to add a new category to the ballot for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, with 291 precincts, is estimated to be between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost is estimated to be between \$1,250 and \$2,000.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Harp Enterprises

Preparer: Katherine L. Halloran **Reviewer:** MCY **Date:** 2/4/15