Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2016 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1426
Bill #: HB 307
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT related to elections.
Sponsor: Representative Kevin D. Bratcher
Unit of Government:XCityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerk
Requirement: <u>X</u> Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing X Adds New X Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

HB 307 requires the State Board of Elections to promulgate administrative regulations regarding the training of challengers.

HB 307 deletes the word 'certified' in regards to challengers.

HB 307 **deletes** language requiring the county clerk to publish in a newspaper a copy of the **entire** face of the voting machines, a copy of the ballot card or supplementary material **in their entirety** on which the names of candidates or issues to be voted upon appear, or a copy of the **full** paper ballot if used.

HB 307 **adds** language allowing the county clerk to publish in a newspaper **only** the names and parties of the candidates for each office, any issues to be voted upon, and the internet address of the county clerk's web site where further information including, at the clerk's discretion, the entire ballot, may be found.

HB 307 expands the entity that is responsible for the cost of publication from counties to include all forms of local government. Furthermore, if the voting data is limited to a city

election or a district election other than a school district election, the cost shall be paid by the city or that district.

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

The fiscal impact of HB 307 on local governments could be substantial relative to the clerk's budget, depending on the county and publishing cost. Current statute requires that the entire ballot be printed in the paper. In some years, this could prove to be a significant expense to the local clerk offices occupying up to a page or more, especially in larger counties with large circulation papers. In Jefferson County alone, current cost are as much as \$115,000 for each election, primary and general. This cost would drop significantly to less than \$25,000 under the provisions of HB 307.

For comparison, the Franklin County Clerk pays between \$1,100 and \$1,200 each time a full page ballot is published in the local paper. Likewise, these cost will drop significantly to no more than \$496, the cost of a black and white half page ad for the local paper. Savings of more than that may be expected since it is doubtful that the space needed would require a half page; the half-page is simply a verifiable reference point.

Data Source(s):	LRC Staff, Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Jefferson County
	Kentucky County Clerk, Franklin County Kentucky County Clerk

Preparer: W	endell F. Butler	Reviewer:	JWN	Date:	2/1/16
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