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

## **Part I: Measure Information**

| Bill Request #: 344   |
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| Bill #: SB 169 GA   |
| Bill Subject/Title: Elections   |
| Sponsor: Sen. Albert Robinson   |
| Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County 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  |

Section 1 of SB 169 GA deletes the KRS 121.180 requirement that when a report is filed with the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, a duplicate paper copy shall be filed with the relevant county clerk who shall maintain the report for public inspection for a period of one year.

Section 2 amends KRS 116.095 to require a county clerk to redact a registered voter's Social Security number before permitting a citizen to inspect or receive a copy of that voter's registration record.

Section 3 amends KRS 116.0452 to require that a county clerk shall not accept a voter registration application later than 4 PM local time on the last day that registration applications are received.

Section 4 amends KRS 117.235 to permit: 1) Electioneering within 100 feet of a polling place rather than 300 feet per current law; 2) Bumper stickers within 100 feet of a polling place; 3) Any precinct election officer, county clerk, deputy county clerk, or law enforcement official may enforce the election law and maintain law and order within 100 feet of a polling place rather than 300 feet per current law. Assistance may be requested

of any law enforcement officer; and 4) Notwithstanding the prohibition against electioneering, a person may display a political campaign sign on private property. However, if a polling place is located on private property, the prohibition against electioneering shall apply to that private property.

Section 5 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 160 to address the issue of election of school board members where the district boundary extends beyond the boundary of a single county. The new section requires that candidates for election to the school board shall be elected from the district at large.

Section 6 amends KRS 118.425 to conform to Section 5.

Section 7 amends KRS 117.227 to add one more means for an election officer to identify a voter. An election officer shall identify a voter by any identification card that has been issued by the county and which has been approved in writing by the State Board of Elections, any identification card with picture signature, or any federal or Kentucky issued identification with picture.

Section 8 amends KRS 117.087 to require challenges to absentee ballots returned by mail to be in the hands of the county clerk before 8:00 AM on Election Day and to direct a county board of election to meet and count absentee ballots beginning at 8:00 AM on Election Day.

The GA version of the measures differs from the bill as introduced only in that the GA version contains a clarifying amendment that does not change the Local Mandate.

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

## SB 169 GA will have a minimal positive fiscal impact on county clerks.

According to the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Sections 1 and 3 of SB 169 GA will have a minimal positive impact on county clerks.

With regard to Section 2, while it is not known how many Social Security numbers remain on voter registration records, very minimal time and effort will be required to redact a Social Security number before permitting a citizen to inspect or receive a copy of a voter registration record.

Section 4 codifies 31 KAR 4:180. Therefore, the section has no fiscal impact on county clerks.

With regard to Section 5, there are two school districts in Kentucky extending beyond the boundary of a single county: Caverna Independent and Corbin Independent. Caverna Independent serves Cave City in Barren County and Horse Cave in Hart County while Corbin Independent serves Corbin, located in Whitley and Knox Counties.

At present, county clerks in the above counties utilize a process to ensure that school board candidates for a school district extending beyond the boundary of a single county are elected by voters from the entire school district. A candidate files with the county clerk in the county in which the candidate resides. The county clerk then provides the name of the certified candidate to the county clerks in the other county served by the school district for inclusion on the ballot. The county clerks in each of the counties certify the vote totals to each other. The county board of elections for the county where a winning candidate resides issues the certificate of election.

Since Section 5 codifies existing practice, the measure has no fiscal impact on county clerks.

According to the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Section 7 is designed mainly to help people with military ID's vote. There is no fiscal impact on county clerks.

According to the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Section 8 requires county clerks to begin counting absentee ballots on Election Day no later than 8 AM rather than 10 AM per current law. The current law makes it difficult for county clerks in larger counties to finish counting absentee ballots by 6 PM. The earlier start time will help county clerks but have no fiscal impact.

Data Source(s): <u>Kentucky County Clerk's Association</u>

Preparer: Scott Varland Reviewer: JWN Date: 2/25/16