



restored to voting rights by executive pardon. Section 2 of the bill would require the following question be submitted to the voters:

“Excluding persons committing treason, bribery involving elections, a sex offense, a violent offense, or an offense against a child, are you in favor of granting the General Assembly the authority to establish standards for giving persons convicted of certain felonies the right to vote?”

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

#### **SB 299 would have minimal fiscal impact on county clerks.**

According to 2010 data there are approximately 180,984 convicted felons in Kentucky who have served their sentences but are without voting rights. It is not known how many of these individuals would be eligible for restoration of voting rights under SB 299 or would register to vote, if voters ratify the proposed constitutional amendment.

Under current law county clerks are responsible for certifying eligibility of persons to vote. SB 299 is not expected to increase the work load or expenses of local county clerks' offices beyond a minimal amount.

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 288 precincts, is estimated between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost is estimated between \$1,250 and \$2,000.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff, Harp Enterprises, Inc., The Sentencing Project's "State-Level Estimates of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States, 2010", Office of the Jefferson County Clerk

**Preparer:** Mary Stephens      **Reviewer:** JWN      **Date:** 3/9/16