

**Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2017 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 442

Bill #: HB 111

Bill Subject/Title: An ACT proposing to amend Sections 99, 124, and 144 of the
Constitution of Kentucky relating to a Judge of the County Court.

Sponsor: Representative Stan Lee

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local
Government

Office(s) Impacted: _____

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on
Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

Kentucky Constitution Section 99:

HB 442 provides that in regards to constitutional officers elected within a county and beginning with the regular election in 2022, a county that has merged the county government with the city government shall not elect a Judge of the County Court if that city was the only incorporated city in the county at the time of merger.

Kentucky Constitution Section 124:

HB 442 further clarifies that in regards to the powers of a county judge, such powers shall be limited when a county has merged the county government with the city government if that city was the only incorporated city in the county at the time of merger.

Kentucky Constitution Section 144:

HB 442 provides that in regards to the composition of a Fiscal Court, a county that has merged the county government with the city government shall not elect a Judge of the County Court if that city was the only incorporated city in the county at the time of merger.

HB 442 cites this as the Fayette County Judge/Executive John Roberts Act.

Whereas HB 442 proposes changes in the Constitution, this amendment must be placed on the ballot to be voted on.

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

The fiscal impact of BR 442 on local governments is expected to be minimal. The county clerk will have expenses when placing this question on the ballot.

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.

Additionally, although Fiscal Court will realize a savings in salary expense due to the lack of a County Judge, a portion of the savings may be used for the increased mayoral salary of the combined government. The mayor of the merged government could conceivably qualify for a higher mayoral salary due to the increase in population.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Harp Enterprises

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** JWN **Date:** 2/1/17