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

**Part I: Measure Information** 

Bill Request #: 1021
Bill #:HB 319 GA
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to elections.
Sponsor: Representative Kenny C. Imes
Unit of Government:  City  X  County  X  Urban-County  Unified Local  X  Charter County  X  Consolidated Local  X  Government
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks
Requirement: Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing X Adds New Eliminates Existing

## Part II: Purpose and Mechanics

HB 319 establishes criteria relating to local option elections and filing deadlines with the county clerk's offices. The group seeking the local option election shall post a bond to cover all costs of the election, which shall be established by the county judge/executive.

Once the petition for a local option election is accepted, the county judge/executive shall make an order on the book of the court directing that the local option questions may be placed on the ballot for the next primary or general election. If the election is to be held on any day other than a primary or regular election date, a person or group of persons seeking the local option election shall bear the cost of the election.

In order for the local option election to be held on the same day as a primary, the petition shall be filed not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the day on which the primary is to be held and no later than the last Tuesday in January preceding the primary election.

In order for the local option election to be held on the same day as a regular election, the petition shall be filed not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the regular election.

## **Section 3 thru Section 5:**

Provides for urban-county government, charter county, consolidated local government, and unified local government in which a qualified historic site is located to have a local option election for the limited sales of alcoholic beverages by the drink in the precinct where the site is located. The same restrictions governing sales of alcohol by the drink currently placed on counties and cities will remain in effect, but extended to the other forms of government.

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

With the average cost to counties conducting an election of \$2,000 per precinct; the savings to counties holding a local option election on the same day that a primary or regular election is held could range from minimal to significant, depending upon the composition of the territory (could range from one precinct to the entire county) and the number of territories within a county requesting local option elections per annum.

As counties currently pay for the costs of primary and general elections (apart from the state reimbursement of \$398 per precinct, \$199 each for primary and general elections), it is immaterial as to whether the petitioners pay for requesting a local option election on a day other than a primary or general election day or whether the local option election is added to the ballot of a primary or general election.

While counties would incur additional programming costs due to adding a new category to the ballot for a primary or general election that would not be incurred if the petitioners are covering the costs for a different day, the amounts are minimal. According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to 97 Kentucky counties, the costs would range from \$14 per precinct for larger counties such as Fayette with 291 precincts to \$45 per precinct for counties such as Franklin with 44 precincts.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Harp Enterprise,

Kentucky State Board of Elections

**Preparer:** Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 03/06/17