

their right automatically once they have served their sentence, completed parole, probation, and paid court-ordered restitution.

Section 148: All voting precincts shall be open for voters to cast their ballots on the Saturday before the November election. All regular, special, and primary elections, and early voting for the November election will adhere to the current voting hours of 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Voting precincts open on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November shall remain open until 8:00 pm, an hour later than current requirements.

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

The savings of SB 251 to local governments due to eliminating a primary and general election in 2023 by adding the slate of candidates to the scheduled primary and general elections of 2024, *provided that voters ratify the constitutional amendment(s), would be significant.*

At present; assuming 3,731 precincts; \$4,000 per precinct in total costs (\$2,000 each for primary and general elections); and state reimbursement of \$398 per precinct (\$199 each for primary and general elections), the savings to local governments would be about \$13.4 million during the calendar year of the eliminated primary and general election.

Applying an inflationary factor to determine the savings starting in calendar year 2023 (first year in which primary and general elections would be eliminated under this legislation) may be inapplicable given population shifts, potential advances in voting technology (on-line voting), and changes in the state reimbursement rate and compensation to poll workers (currently set by counties with a minimum of \$10 for one mandatory training session and a minimum of \$60 for election day as well as supplemental payment for mileage).

The costs of SB 251 to local governments due to adding the constitutional amendment(s) to a ballot would be minimal.

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.

In regards to the cost of making the Saturday before the November election a voting day and extending the voting period an extra hour, we may ascertain the following based on prior proposals dealing with extended in-house voting. The cost of extending in-house absentee voting periods has been met with contradictory views from the Secretary of State and the County Clerks Association.

The Kentucky County Clerk's Association and current Chairman of the Association's Election Committee provided the following views regarding the impact of SB 251, specifically the requirement to allow voting the Saturday before the November election. The association expects the impact to local government to be significant.

Extra machines would have to be purchased. This is necessitated by the need to segregate early voting machines from those machines used on Election Day in order to preserve the history of early voting in case of recounts or investigations.

Duplicate rosters and voter rolls will be needed at each early voting location so that each location can mark voters as having voted during the early voting period and to ensure each precinct can verify this has occurred in order to safeguard against individuals voting again on Election Day.

There is concern among the clerk offices regarding the use of temporary labor for early voting. Concerns range from the trustworthiness of temporaries to whether or not temporaries possess the necessary knowledge. Whereas early voting machines will be located at various locations, a clerk, in lieu of hiring temporaries, will have to send staff to the location for hands-on control and security, thus removing staff from their regular office responsibilities. If the clerks opts for outside labor to man the locations, then this would be a labor cost above and beyond what they have today. At a minimum, early voting would require 4 election officers per location, the same as Election Day. However, you might have to staff for "crowd control" if fewer locations are used due to the higher volume of people.

Of further concern to the Kentucky County Clerk's Association is the logistics of setting up and managing early voting. The early voting machines must be delivered to the locations and later picked up and stored. The locations must be reimbursed for what amounts to "rent" for the early voting period. The machines themselves must be secured every day during early voting. This will no doubt add expense. It should be noted that some early voting advocates also favor having many locations during the voting period, which exacerbates the cost substantially.

Some counties would need to hire at least two precinct workers. Precinct workers historically have been paid the statutory minimum of \$60 to as much as \$200 per day plus a training day for which the precinct workers are paid a statutory minimum of \$10. If the purchase of one or more machines is necessary, the cost per machine is \$3,500 to \$4,500 per machine. Obviously, if the county has a single early voting location within the actual clerk's office, then cost would be minimized. Overall cost would be dependent on the size of the clerk's office, size of the voting population, ability of the office to pay precinct workers, and the need of additional locations besides the clerk's office.

The Secretary of State's Office provided the following views and expects the impact of SB 251 on local governments to be minimal.

In response to the concern regarding duplicate rosters, The Secretary of State's office stated that duplicate rosters will be provided by the Kentucky State Board of Elections, **at no cost to the county clerks.**

In response to concerns about the logistics and cost related to multiple voting locations, **SB 251 does not mandate a county clerk to establish multiple voting locations.** A county may choose to do so, but otherwise, voting will occur in the county clerks' offices. This also remedies cost concerns regarding hiring people to man the out of office locations since office personnel can man these machines.

KRS 117.085 already requires county clerks to offer in-person absentee voting (with an excuse) a minimum of 12 days before an election. The Secretary of State said a majority of counties go above and beyond this requirement and include additional days, **including Saturdays.** Furthermore, to the knowledge of the Secretary of State's office, none of the counties that currently open for the 12 or more days for in-person absentee voting are utilizing temporary labor.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, County Clerk's Association, Harp Enterprises, Secretary of State's Office

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/20/17