

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

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 333

**Bill #:** SB 65

**Bill Subject/Title:** AN ACT relating to mail-in ballot eligibility.

**Sponsor:** Senator Julian M. Carroll

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

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

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

**Part II: Purpose and Mechanics**

SB 65 provides that voters who are prevented from voting in person at the polls and from casting an absentee ballot in person in the county clerk's office because of a medical condition may apply to cast their votes by mail-in absentee ballot.

SB 65 reaffirms that in order to be counted, mail-in ballots must be received by the county clerk by at least the time the polls close. KRS 118.035(1) defines closing time to be after the last voter waiting in line at 6 p.m. has voted.

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

**The fiscal impact of SB 65 on local governments is expected to be negligible to minimal.**

KRS 117.085(1)(a)(1) already allows for people with a "disability and illness" to use mail-in absentee ballots to cast their votes pursuant to KRS 117.075. Therefore the system is already in place.

The Secretary Of State's office believes there will be no substantial fiscal impact and concurred that this option is already available in current law.

The County Clerk's Association, in addition to stating this is already an option for people with medical conditions, ~~they~~ have a concern regarding the mail-in ballot being received by the county clerk after the last voter waiting in line at 6 p.m. has voted. The Association claims that knowing which precinct may be voting after six and when they complete the voting process would be a logistical problem. They also question if this time frame would only apply to a person who is a voter in that particular precinct. Additionally, current law for poll closing is 6 p.m. and almost all mail deliveries are made prior to that time.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff; Secretary of State; James Lewis, Past President, County Clerk's Association

**Preparer:** Wendell F. Butler      **Reviewer:** JWN      **Date:** 1/11/17