

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2018 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 121

**Bill #:** HB 472

**Document ID #:** 5540

**Bill Subject/Title:** AN ACT proposing to amend Sections 119 and 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to judges of the district court.

**Sponsor:** Rep. Wesley Morgan

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

Office(s) Impacted: County clerks

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

Effect on

Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing  Adds New  Eliminates Existing

**Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government**

HB 472 proposes to amend Sections 119 and 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky extending the term of district judges from four years to six years and increasing the requirement of being a licensed attorney from two years to at least four years to serve as a district judge. The amendment is to be submitted to voters for ratification or rejection.

**The costs of HB 472 to local governments due to adding a constitutional amendment to a ballot would be minimal.**

Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution specifies that constitutional amendments are only added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years. Therefore the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2018.

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.

**Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions**

The Part II section above pertains to the bill as introduced and there are not any prior introduced versions of the bill to complete the Part III section.

**Data Source(s):** Kentucky Association of Counties; Kentucky Association of County Clerks; harp Enterprises.

**Preparer:** H. Marks      **Reviewer:** KHC      **Date:** 2/27/18