

storage retention costs of original signature rosters. These points are further addressed below.

Training, in regards to e-poll books, will be included in the training now provided by the county board of elections before each primary and regular election.

The Kentucky County Clerks Association was contacted regarding this proposal. Both the Clerks Association and the Secretary of State (SOS) agree that the SBE is required to furnish signature rosters, so the expense would be that of the state. The association did have a concern regarding who would pay for additional signature rosters if needed by a precinct. Currently, county clerks divide the one signature roster by alphabet divisions to accommodate larger precincts.

Likewise, the SOS was contacted regarding this proposal. Below is a summary of SOS concerns and feedback:

In 2014, the SOS and the SBE began conducting research regarding e-poll books. In 2015, the SOS and the SBE held a statewide tour regarding our election processes and received numerous presentations regarding e-poll books. In early 2016, the SBE approved and conducted a pilot program across the Commonwealth during the 2016 Presidential Primary and General elections. Overall, the response from county clerks, precinct election officials, and voters was overwhelmingly positive.

In June, 2016, the SBE, voted unanimously to allocate nearly six million dollars, furnished by the federal government to the state's Help America Vote Act of 2002 funds, to purchase and implement statewide e-poll books. Currently, the counties bear no cost for the purchase of the equipment or its implementation.

Over the past four years, significant time and resources have been spent in implementing e-poll books across Kentucky. The SOS feels that by delaying the implementation of e-poll books until May 2019 ignores these substantial efforts and years of preparation already in place, prevents the SOS and the SBE from carrying out their statutorily and constitutionally prescribed duties, and fails to consider any additional costs delaying implementation will cause. The SBE cannot guarantee federal funds will be available in May 2019. **The burden to pay for an update of the e-poll books may fall to the state since the SBE is required to furnish signature rosters at no expense to the county.**

Specifically, the SBE presently prepares, prints, and ships voter rosters to the counties for each election. This is a process which is not only time consuming, but costly for both the SBE and counties. The counties place the rosters in polling places on Election Day for voters to sign and then must ship them back to the SBE for scanning. The process of mailing, scanning, and assigning voter credit can take up to six months to complete. Once this is complete, the SBE boxes and ships all rosters back to the counties for statutorily required retention of 22 months. **There is no cost to the county for shipping which is paid by KBE. There currently may be minor costs to the county clerk for storage, but only if the local county clerk's office doesn't have space on site.**

The Auditor of Public Accounts, noting the process needs improvement to ensure accuracy in assigning voter credit and state employees' use of leave, applauded the SBE's forward thinking in implementing e-poll books. The SOS believes the e-poll book initiative will improve Kentucky's election processes, save our counties and state time, and lead to more accurate records for election and law enforcement officials. Currently 33 other states have implemented e-poll books.

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

Part II pertaining to the bill as introduced. No prior versions of the bill have been introduced necessitating Part III to be completed at this time.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Secretary of State, State Board of elections

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