

Increases from 7 to 14 days prior to the date of an election, the time frame that a qualified voter must return a completed application for a mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerks' office. The methods by which a voter may request an application for a mail-in absentee ballot, a county clerk may use for transmitting an application to a voter, and a voter may return the completed request for application are standardized to include facsimile machines and electronic filing, along with regular mail and in person. The request for an application can also be done by phone. If a voter doesn't qualify for a mail-in absentee ballot, but will be absent from his or her residence on election day, he or she will be allowed to vote in-person.

HB 510 expands the list of acceptable reasons for voting by mail-in absentee ballot to include being unable to appear at the polls on election day due to age, disability, or illness, and has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent jurisdiction.

A voter who has applied for a mail-in absentee ballot but has yet to receive it, may appear at the county clerk's office on election day to be removed from the list of persons who were sent a mail-in absentee ballot and be allowed to vote in the precinct in which he or she is registered. The voter may also appear at the county clerk's office during in-person absentee voting days and be allowed to vote by in-person absentee ballot.

Increases from 15 to 45 days before any special election that the county clerk must cause ballot labels for each candidate and/or question to be voted on to be printed and ready for use.

Increases from 28 days to 49 days the minimal time for which a write-in candidate must file his or her intent to be a write-in candidate **in a special election**. This brings the filing deadline for write-in candidates in conformity with the filing deadline for party and independent candidates.

The Kentucky County Clerk's Association expects the fiscal impact of HB 510 on county governments to be minimal. Conversely, the Association opposes the return of completed absentee ballots back to the office by fax or email. The issue being the lack of an original signature to compare against the voter registration record, or in general, possibly no signature at all. Also the Association claims that HB 510 contradicts the language they have proposed in HB 270 concerning County Board of Elections meetings. The Association's position on cancelling the absentee ballot on election day has not yet been established as of the date of this mandate statement.

The fiscal impact of HB 510 on county clerk's offices would be minimal.

The Secretary of State (SOS) expects the fiscal impact to be one of cost savings to county governments and county clerks. By including facsimile machines and electronic filing as a means for requesting, transmitting, and returning mail-in absentee ballot applications, the SOS expects a postage savings for county clerks and voters.

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

Part II pertains 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, Kentucky County Clerks' Association, Secretary of State

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