Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 273
Bill #:HB 101
Document ID #: 843
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to voter registration.
Sponsor: Representative Tom Burch
Unit of Government: City x County Unified Local x Charter County x Consolidated Local x Government
Office(s) Impacted: County clerks
Requirement: x Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties:x _ Modifies Existingx _ Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

HB 101 amends KRS 116.045 to permit a process of voter preregistration for persons at the minimum age of 16 years and requires the State Board of Elections to promulgate administrative regulations to provide for preregistration and subsequent registration confirmation.

The bill amends KRS 116.046 to direct schools and the county clerk to inform students and school personnel, not less than once each school year, about the availability of preregistration and registration forms and directs the State Board of Education to implement programs of public education (not less than once during each school year) regarding elections, voting procedures, and election fraud, and which shall include sophomores. It directs school districts to submit an annual report to the Legislative Research Commission regarding student voter preregistration and registration. The bill also provides that each application for a motor vehicle driver's license shall be a simultaneous application for voter preregistration and registration, unless declined by the applicant.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate and will range from minimal to moderate. The voter preregistration program proposed in HB 101 creates a new responsibility for county clerks which could periodically require significant staff time. For an estimated 26 to 28 thousand students statewide county clerks will need to adopt these forms, distribute them to schools, perhaps providing assistance with filling out the forms, follow up on any incomplete forms, process, record, and store them. With a new preregistration system, clerks will likely have to maintain a separate filing system for the preregistered, and then move an individual's preregistration to the registered system once the individual turns 18.

The extent of the effort required will depend on how many young people choose to preregister and when the bulk of the preregistrations are submitted to the county clerk's office. Although HB 101 will increase county clerk office workload, this work can be done with existing staff and a minimum amount of time or, perhaps, overtime. Frequently, forms completed off site are submitted without a signature or with incomplete information. Processing forms that are not completed at the county clerk's office often require more processing time. When this happens, the clerk's office may spend additional time contacting the applicant by phone or mail in order to complete the application. Also, it could become problematic for the county clerk's office if a large number of preregistrations are submitted near the deadline for voters to be registered to vote in the next election, as this is a peak time for clerks, particularly in the larger counties. Finally, the required annual report on student registration and pre-registration will likely require County clerks to provide data required by the report.

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

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): Kentucky County Clerks Association; LRC staff; Kentucky State Board of

Elections; Jefferson County Board of Elections

Preparer: H. Marks Reviewer: KHC Date: 1/10/20