Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 2031						
Bill #: HB 567						
Document ID #: <u>6261</u>						
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to elections.						
Sponsor: Representative Maria N Sorolis						
Unit of Government: X City X County M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M						
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government						
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks						
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional						
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies ExistingX_ Adds New Eliminates Existing						

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

HB 567 provides that a county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to approve voting locations that may be used by any registered voter in the county provided that the locations are equipped with voting machines capable of providing or accepting separate ballots and separate precinct rosters for each precinct.

HB 567 requires that separate precinct rosters for each precinct; voters shall cast their votes only on those ballots certified for their precinct; and election officers need only be a qualified voter in the county and do not need to reside in any specific precinct. A separate set of election forms and reports shall be maintained for each precinct.

The fiscal impact of HB 567 on local governments is indeterminable but could range from minimal to significant if county boards of elections petition and receive approval from the State Board of Elections to implement county-wide voting options. The primary costs will depend on the number of machines the county puts into service. There will also be personnel costs regarding staffing and the related training necessary to staff the additional locations.

Per KRS 117.105, fiscal courts are responsible for purchasing or leasing voting machines to be used in regular, special, and primary elections. The approximate cost to purchase a standard voting machine is \$6,250. Within Franklin County, each precinct has two voting machines. Counties may purchase or lease voting machines through the sale of bonds or receipt of grant money.

WLEX-18 news out of Lexington recently reported the Fayette County Clerk had purchased 175 paper ballot machines at a cost of \$11,000+ per machine. Given the stipulation that the machine must be capable of tabulating separate ballots, a number of machines may / may not have to be replaced.

Per KRS 117.045, each precinct is required to have 4 election officers (2 judges, 1 clerk, and 1 sheriff of election). Per statute, each election officer is paid a minimum of \$10 for attending a mandatory training session before Election Day and a minimum of \$60 per Election Day and mileage. Within Franklin County, election officers receive \$20 for training and \$145 for working on Election Day. KRS 117.343, does provide for reimbursement of 0.50 per registered voter to the counties for the cost of employing personnel necessary to conduct elections. There may be a savings related to the closing of a precinct location.

KRS 117.066 does currently allow for the precincts with a small number of voters to utilize voting facilities and election officers of larger precincts.

In the case of a precinct comprised of a small number of registered voters, the county board of elections may, pursuant to KRS 117.055, utilize the facilities of another precinct as a voting location. Additionally, the county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to allow the precinct election officers of the larger precinct to serve as precinct election officers for the precinct that is the subject of the petition.

The Secretary of State states that a major issue with this legislation is the cost involved in having county-wide ballots available at additional locations.

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

Part II related to HB 567 as introduced.

Data Source(s): <u>LRC Staff</u>

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