

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): LRC Staff

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