

recording of a statewide paper ballot election system, in conformity with certifications and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Elections.

Section 10 specifically states that the legislative body of any county, urban-county, charter county, consolidated local, or unified local government shall purchase or lease, from available funds or from the proceeds of bonds which may be issued for that purpose, voting systems (changed from machines) for use in primaries, regular elections, and special elections.

Section 12 amends KRS 117.125 to explain the specifications that a voting system must adhere to. The voting system must specifically “provide each voter an opportunity to verify votes recorded on the permanent paper ballot, either visually or using assistive voting technology, by producing a voter-verified paper audit trail; to change votes or correct any error before the voter’s ballot is cast and counted; and to provide a voter who spoils his or her ballot another ballot as provided under this chapter.”

The fiscal impact on County clerk offices and county budgets will be significant. WLEX-18 news out of Lexington recently reported the Fayette County Clerk had purchased 175 *paper ballot machines* at a cost of \$5,000 per machine.

One county clerk records that the added costs of HB 638 HCS at the county level would be essentially impossible to attain, as a majority of the counties would need new equipment immediately to comply. Funding from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) may not be enough to purchase new machines and additional funding would need to be secured.

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

HB 638 HCS does not change the fiscal impact of HB 638. HB 638 HCS retains all provisions of HB 638 but removes language regarding the size of ballots.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Association of County Clerks; Kentucky Association of Counties; Kentucky Magistrates Association; Franklin County Clerk

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