Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2020 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 141
Bill #: SB 18
Document ID #: 234
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to absentee voting.
Sponsor: Senator Ralph A Alvarado
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County
<u>X</u> Charter County <u>X</u> Consolidated Local <u>X</u> Government
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks, County Boards of Elections and any areas whose employees are considered essential service personnel.
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
SB 18 expands the class of eligible people entitled to mail-in and in-person absentee ballots to include essential service personnel.
Essential service personnel are defined as:
 Firefighter; Specialized emergency personnel including, but not limited to, hazardous materials personnel, specialized rescue personnel, water rescue personnel, extrication personnel; EMS personal; Emergency management personnel;

Emergency medical technician;

- Physician;

Physician assistantRegistered nurse;

- Mental health practitioner;
- Paramedic:
- Law Enforcement officer:
- Public Health practitioner;
- Emergency responder;
- Any person possessing a license, certificate, permit, or any official recognition of expertise and who is involved in a profession whose assistance is desirable during an emergency or medical response to prevent risk to health, life, property, or the environment.

The fiscal impact of SB 18 to local governments is indeterminable. There will be cost associated with the mail-in ballots, but it is not known what the estimate of the number of ballots. We do not know the current voting patterns of this group of voters, if they currently vote, and how (or if) this proposal might affect the process by which they choose to vote.

Additionally, depending on the number of essential service personnel opting for in-person absentee voting, the clerk's office might need additional staff for implementation during in-person absentee voting days. Likewise, a significant increase in mail-in absentee ballots might generate a need for personnel. This would affect the larger counties more so due to the greater number of essential service personnel.

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

Part II refers to SB 18 as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Individual County Clerks

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/10/20