

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2020 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:**  279

**Bill #:**  SB 31

**Document ID #:**  1733

**Bill Subject/Title:**  An Act proposing to amend Section 70, 72, 73, 74, 84, 85, 86, 87, 90, 91, and 92 and repeal Section 82 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to to abolishing the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

**Sponsor:**  Senator Stephen Meredith

Unit of Government:   City  **x**  County  **x**  Urban-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 Existing   Adds New   Eliminates Existing

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

SB 31 proposes to amend various sections of the Constitution of Kentucky to abolish the Office of the Lieutenant Governor beginning with the gubernatorial election in November 2023 and to establish the President of the Senate as first in line for gubernatorial succession, or the Senate Minority Floor Leader if the Governor is of the same political party as that of the minority political party in the Senate. It establishes the Speaker of the House as the second in line for gubernatorial succession, or the House of Representatives' Minority Floor Leader if the Governor is of the same political party as that of the minority political party in the House of Representatives. It eliminates the Attorney General's and the Auditor of Public Accounts' constitutional duties regarding gubernatorial line of succession and repeal Section 82 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to succession of Lieutenant Governor. The bill provides ballot language to be submitted to voters for ratification or rejection.

**The fiscal impact of SB 31 is minimal.** Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution specifies that constitutional amendments are only added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years (“next general election for members of the House of Representatives”). Therefore the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2020.

According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that has recently provided electronic voting machines to 96 Kentucky counties, there are additional programming costs associated with adding a new category to the ballot on an already scheduled statewide election. For example, the cost to add a new category to the ballot for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, with 286 precincts, has recently been estimated at between \$3,500 and \$4,500, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost has been estimated at between \$1,700 and \$2,500.

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

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

**Data Source(s):** Kentucky Association of Counties; Harp Enterprises; Kentucky Association of County Clerks

**Preparer:** H. Marks      **Reviewer:** KHC      **Date:** 1/13/20