

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2021 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1527

Bill #: HB 411

Document ID #: 3177

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT proposing to amend Section 147 of the Constitution of
Kentucky relating to early voting.

Sponsor: Representative Pamela Stevenson

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
 Charter County Consolidated Local Unified Local
Government

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerk offices

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on

Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

HB 411 would propose to amend the Kentucky Constitution to allow any person who requests to vote early to be permitted to vote without a prescribed excuse, and eliminate the early voting excuse requirement that a person be absent from the county of his/her legal residence.

Per Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution, proposed constitutional amendments are added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years. This amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2022.

HB 411 would have a minimal fiscal impact on local governments. Based on information received in early 2020 from Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to almost 100 Kentucky counties, there are additional programming costs associated with adding a new constitutional amendment 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, was estimated at between \$3,500 and \$4,500, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost was estimated at between \$1,700 and \$2,500.

There could be additional costs associated with extra paper (if the ballot language requires additional space) for paper ballots and absentee voting. It has been estimated that the cost of one extra page for a single ballot is \$0.25, depending on the county's printing contract. Therefore, the total cost would depend on the number of paper ballots that would need the extra page. (Fayette County Clerk)

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

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

Data Source(s): LRC staff; Harp Enterprises; Fayette County Clerk

Preparer: Robert Jenkins **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/9/21