Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2021 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1788	
Bill #: HB 527	
Document ID #: 3873	
Bill Subject/Title:	AN ACT proposing an amendment to Sections 30, 31, and 32 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to terms of members of the General Assembly.
Sponsor: Representaive Al Gentry	
Unit of Government:	City X County X Urban-County Unified Local X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted:	County clerk offices
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

HB 527 would propose to amend various sections of the Kentucky Constitution to elect Senators for terms of six years beginning in November, 2024, for odd-numbered Senatorial districts and beginning in November, 2026, for even-numbered Senatorial districts, and Representatives for terms of four years beginning in November, 2024; prevent Senators from serving more than two consecutive six-year terms of office, and prevent Representatives from serving more than three consecutive four-year terms of office, beginning with those elected in November 2024; and allow legislators to resume service in the chamber from which they were term-limited after a full term of office has elapsed.

By the language of the bill and as allowed by Kentucky Constitution Section 256, the proposed amendment would be submitted to the voters at the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are chosen and in a year in which there is no election

for the President and Vice President of the United States. This means that the proposed amendment would be considered in November 2022.

The costs of HB 527 to local governments due to adding a constitutional amendment to a ballot would be minimal. 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.

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

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

Data Source(s): <u>LRC staff; Harp Enterprises</u>

Preparer: Robert Jenkins **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/23/21