

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

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1617

Bill #: SB 137

Document ID #: 3596

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to persons entitled to vote.

Sponsor: Senator Gerald Neal

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

SB 137 would propose an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution to allow persons convicted of a felony, other than serious felonies designated by the General Assembly, the right to vote, and to further amend the constitution by replacing the language that prohibits idiots and insane persons from voting with contemporary language.

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 SB 137 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): LRC staff; Harp Enterprises

Preparer: Robert Jenkins **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/3/21