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

#### **Part I: Measure Information**

Bill Request #:464
Bill #: SB 282
<b>Document ID #:</b> 1299
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:CityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerk
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

Currently, the Kentucky Constitution prohibits a person convicted of a felony from the right to vote, subject to restoration of rights by an executive pardon. SB 282 would propose to amend the Kentucky Constitution to permit the General Assembly to establish standards for giving persons convicted of certain felonies the right to vote. This would not include a felony that is a sex offense, violent offense, offense against a child, or an offense punishable by more than five years' incarceration.

Per the language of the bill and Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution, this amendment would be added to the ballot in a general election in an even-numbered year at which there is no election for President of the United States. Therefore, the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November 2022.

# The fiscal impact of SB 282 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 JenkinsReviewer:KHCDate:2/24/21