

The machine or system would also be required to produce a paper record (with a manual audit capacity) that would serve as an official record of votes cast. The State Board of Elections would be required to certify the voting machines and voting systems.

Any voting machine and voting system currently in use that does not meet the requirements could continue to be used until a replacement voting machine or system has been certified and placed in operation.

SB 63 SCS 1 would have a minimal fiscal impact on local governments. Because the bill permits existing voting machines and systems to be used until a replacement voting machine or system has been certified and placed in operation, there could be a limited immediate fiscal impact.

However, replacing a voting machine could be problematic. Under the bill, a single voting machine that malfunctioned must be replaced with one that meets the bill's criteria. Generally speaking, it is not possible to replace a voting machine with a different type of voting machine that could be part of an existing unified system. This would require a county to replace an entire voting system rather than a single malfunctioning voting machine.

The cost to counties of replacing voting machines and voting systems that meet the criteria of SB 63 SCS 1 could be significant.

The State Board of Elections is not aware of a vendor that sells voting equipment that would meet the bill's criteria for neither wireless nor physical port access.

The cost associated with designing such a computer system and purchasing it could be excessive. Funding from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) would not be sufficient to purchase such new machines.

There would be a minimal cost to county clerk offices related to training of the new requirements for a voting machine or voting system and related to the new procedures for appointment of members to a county board of elections.

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

Part II, above, relates to SB 63 SCS 1. There was no local government mandate statement for the introduced version of SB 63.

Data Source(s): LRC staff; State Board of Elections; Kentucky County Clerks' Association

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