Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2022 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1322							
Bill #: HB 212 GA							
Document ID #: <u>3540</u>							
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to county reapportionment and declaring an emergency.							
Sponsor: Representative Michael Meredith							
Jnit of Government:CityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment							
Office(s) Impacted: fiscal courts							
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

Current law at KRS 67.045 requires that a county fiscal court begin proceedings to reapportion voting districts and precincts in May of the first year following the United States decennial census. By Act of the Legislature in 2021 that date was changed to May of the second year following the 2020 decennial census. HB 212 GA would again change the date on which fiscal courts must initiate reapportionment proceedings following the 2020 decennial census.

HB 212 GA declares that an emergency exists and this Act shall take effect upon its passage and approval of the Governor or upon it otherwise becoming law.

KRS 67.045 provides that, within 60 days from initiating reapportionment, a written report shall be submitted to the fiscal court that shows the revised boundaries of districts and the estimated population of each. No later than 60 days after the report is filed, the fiscal court must adopt or amend the report and subsequently enact a county ordinance establishing the

new district boundaries. The county board of elections may need to redraw precinct lines, as provided in KRS 117.055. No precinct may be in more than one justice's or commissioner's district; similarly, fiscal court districts cannot overlap legislative districts.

The 2020 decennial census data release was delayed to September 2021. Legislative reapportionment and redistricting is occurring now, in early 2022. Initiating reapportionment in May 2022, could result in changes to district lines after a county election primary and before the general election. Delaying the county district reapportionment proceedings to June of the third year following the 2020 census allows fiscal courts to ensure that they will not have to redo the reapportionment and redistricting in the event any redrawn state legislative districts overlap fiscal court districts.

HB 212 GA will have no to minimal fiscal impact on county fiscal courts. Current law requires county fiscal courts to initiate reapportionment and redistricting following issuance of the United States decennial census. HB 212 GA makes no changes to that requirement other than to delay the date by which fiscal courts must initiate that action.

The Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association estimates there should be no fiscal impact on local governments from HB 212 GA. There would only be an additional expense if the fiscal court must codify in ordinance the new date by which they must initiate reapportionment. In that case, there would be some costs to draft, publish, index and record the new ordinance. The Kentucky League of Cities states that time spent by an attorney to draft an ordinance is influenced by its complexity and the amount of research that is necessary. In FY 2020, the average hourly rate paid by cities was \$107. Rates for legal notices vary greatly depending on the length of the publication, the number of times it needs to be published and the newspaper in which the publication is placed. Therefore, these costs are unknown, though in this case such costs should be on the low side.

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

Part II applies to HB 212 GA, the bill passed the House without any amendments and the impact statement remains the same as the one provided for the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky County Judge/Executive						
Association, LRC staff, LRC Bulletin No. 115, September 2021						
Preparer:	Mary Stephens	(wfb)	Reviewer:	KHC	Date:	1/25/22