Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2022 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: <u>307</u>			
Bill #: HB 70			
Document ID #: 929			
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to elections.			
Sponsor: Representative Buddy Wheatley			
Unit of Government:	City	X County	X Urban-County Unified Local
	X Charter County	X Consolidated Local	
Office(s) Impacted:	County Clerks		
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional			
Effect on Powers & Duties:	_ Modifies Existing	X Adds New X Eli	iminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

HB 70 prevents straight ticket voting. A voter may not vote for more than one candidate or slate of candidates of the same political party by a single mark or act.

The number of states offering straight ticket voting has been declining over the years. Currently, straight ticket voting exists in only seven states: Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

HB 70 would have a minimal to moderate negative fiscal impact on county clerk's offices.

There would be minimal costs associated with removing straight-ticket voting:

- Straight-party ticket is a programming setting that can be removed in any race. For instance, there is no straight voting in primary elections.

- Although current voting machines allow for straight-ticket voting by simply voting for each individual candidate, there might be concerns regarding ballot presentation and adhering to the provisions of HB 70. In the unlikely event that new machines are necessitated, voting machines typically cost \$3,500 to \$5,000 each.
- Programming existing voting machines to prevent straight-ticket voting by a single mark or act would increase the cost of voting in all county precincts by as much as ten percent.
- Training staff on the new procedures and informing the public by way of signs or other forms of media would increase cost; and
- Designing and printing a new ballot format removing straight-ticket voting would increase costs, but these costs may be minimized for future elections if the same design is used.

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

Part II refers to HB 70 as introduced. There are no prior versions.

Data Source(s):LRC Staff

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