Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2023 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

| Bill Request #: 1724 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Bill #: HE | 5 534 As roduced | | | | | |
| Document ID #: 4591 | | | | | | |
| Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to required publications. | | | | | | |
| Sponsor: Representative Stephanie Dietz | | | | | | |
| Unit of Gove | ernment: X | City | X | County | X | Urban-County Unified Local |
| | X | Charter County | X | Consolidated Local | X | |
| Office(s) Impacted: Any agency of a local government, Special Districts within a county, School Districts, and Special Purpose Government Entities | | | | | | |
| Requirement | : <u>X</u> Ma | andatory Opti | ional | | | |
| Effect on Powers & Du | ıties:] | Modifies Existing | X | Adds New E | limina | tes Existing |

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

HB 534 allows local governments, any agency of a local government, special districts within a county, school districts, and special purpose government entities to publish an advertisement one time providing notice that the public may view the full advertisement on their notice website. HB 534 further provides a number of qualifications the local government must meet regarding digital publication.

The fiscal impact of HB 534 on local governments is indeterminable but expected to be a minimal to moderate cost-savings for the local governments.

The number of times a local government would need to publish are not known. Additionally, rates for publishing legal notices vary greatly depending on the length of the notice, the number of times it needs to be published and the newspaper in which the publication is placed. To duplicate the findings of the LRC study referenced below in order

to obtain a usable figure regarding savings to local governments would take significant time.

LRC's Program Review and Investigations Committee did an extensive study dated October 13, 2016; most of the data originating from 2014 and 1015 data. The following generalities are still applicable:

- Potential savings to local governments from moving to internet notices will depend on current newspaper notice spending. It will also depend on whether localities already have websites that meet the needs of public notice and whether localities operate separate websites or pool their notices on a common website.
- Local governments should be able to save almost all their current print advertising costs for mandated public notices because the ongoing incremental cost for adding public notices should be very small.

More recently, the following information was obtained: In 2022, the City of Hopkinsville spent approximately \$12,000 publishing ordinances and notice of public hearings. One city newspaper reports that it charges the city \$18-\$21 dollars a column inch for city advertisements. It reports the average city advertisement is approximately 2"x5" or 10 column inches, for an average of \$180-\$210 per ad, or a total between approximately \$9,360-\$10,920 per year for publishing one ad each week.

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

Part II refers to HB 534 as introduced. There are no prior versions.

Data Source(s): LRC

Preparer: WB (CH) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/1/23