## Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2023 Regular Session

## **Part I: Measure Information**

<b>Bill Request #:</b> 1605
Bill #: SB 271
<b>Document ID #:</b> <u>3770</u>
<b>Bill Subject/Title:</b> AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to restoration of rights.
Sponsor: Senator Gerald A. Neal
Unit of Government:XCityXCountyXUrban-CountyXCharter CountyXConsolidated LocalXGovernment
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerk
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing X Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

SB 271 amends Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to automatically restore the voting rights of a person convicted of a felony 3 years after completion of their imprisonment, probation, or parole.

SB 271 also updates clarifying language to include *"mentally incompetent"* and *"election fraud."* 

The fiscal impact of SB 271 on requiring local governments to add the above constitutional amendments to a ballot would be minimal, though for counties with smaller budgets the impact may be minimal to moderate. Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution specifies that constitutional amendments are only added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years ("next general election for members of the House of Representatives").

The constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November 2024, the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are to be chosen. Balloting and publishing proposed constitutional amendments is a regular duty of county clerks, paid for by the county fiscal court.

There are additional programming costs associated with adding a new category (local option question or constitutional amendment) to the ballot on an already scheduled statewide election.

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 refers to SB 271 as introduced. There are no prior versions.

 Data Source(s):
 LRC; Kentucky Association of County Clerk's

Preparer:WB (JB)Reviewer:KHCDate:3/1/23