

verify matching figures. If the tallies do not match the process must be repeated until they do.

The county board of elections or their designee would then compare the signed register tape total from the vote tabulation machine to the tallies. If they do not match, the county board of elections would then open an election investigation including a review of election day irregularity reports. If more discrepancies are found, the county board of elections would be required to broaden their investigation until the reason for the discrepancy is found and resolved. A determination of whether the outcome of the race could have been impacted would be made and any findings would be required to be reported to the Attorney General and Secretary of State.

The county board of elections or their designee would also be required to examine the sign-in records from the precinct or vote center and validate that the ballots cast and recounted were less than or equal to the sign-in records. If there were more cast ballots than the number of voters in the sign-in records, the county board of elections would be required to open an election investigation and report the findings to the Attorney General and Secretary of State.

General Fund moneys would be appropriated to the State Board of Elections to reimburse each county clerk up to \$5,000 for expenses incurred in each election in which the county clerk conducts a hand-to eye recount.

The fiscal impact of HB 53 GA on local governments is expected to be minimal. Hand counting of ballots would require two additional qualified poll workers. The wage paid to poll workers varies by county and how long the recount would take would also vary depending on how many ballots were cast on the selected machine. For example, Jefferson County pays poll workers \$40 to attend a training and \$260 for working election day.

The \$5,000 distributed to each county clerk would likely offset a significant portion of the new costs created by HB 53 GA.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Jefferson County Clerk; Kentucky County Clerks Association

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