Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2024 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 240
Bill #: _HB 62
Document ID #: 322
Bill Title: AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to property exempt from taxation.
Sponsor: Representative Ryan Dotson
Unit of Government: City X County X Urban-County Unified Local X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Polating to Local

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If ratified by voters, HB 62 would amend Section 170 of the Constitution of Kentucky to remove the \$6,500 homestead exemption amount for property taxation and provide the General Assembly the authority to set the amount of the homestead exemption.

The costs of HB 62 to local governments due to adding a constitutional amendment to a ballot would be minimal.

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"). Therefore, the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2024.

Balloting and publishing proposed constitutional amendments is a regular duty of county clerks, paid for by the county fiscal court. According to information received in early 2020

from Harp Enterprises, a vendor which provides electronic voting machines to almost 100 Kentucky counties, 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. For example, the cost to add a new category to the ballot for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, with 286 precincts, has recently been estimated at between \$3,500 and \$4,500, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost has been estimated at between \$1,700 and \$2,500.

Ballot printing costs are also a factor in election expenses. If the proposed amendment results in additional pages needed for the ballot, that would be an additional cost to the county clerk's office. It has been estimated that the cost of one extra page for a ballot is \$0.25.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Harp Enterprises

Preparer: Jacob Blevins (MS) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/25/24