

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2024 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 451

**Bill #:** SB 117

**Document ID #:** 3532

**Bill Title:** AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime.

**Sponsor:** Senator Gerald A. Neal

Unit of Government:  City  County  Urban-County Unified Local Government  
 Charter County  Consolidated Local  Government

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

Effect on

Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing  Adds New  Eliminates Existing

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

SB 117, if ratified by voters, would amend Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

**The costs of SB 117 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):** Harp Enterprises; LRC Staff

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