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

**Part I: Measure Information** 

Bill Request #: 1599
Bill #: SB 195
Document ID #: 4504
AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to restoration of rights.
Sponsor: Senator Brandon J. Storm
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County Unified Local X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies ExistingX Adds New Eliminates Existing

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

SB 195 proposes an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky. The amendment, if ratified by voters, would mandate that all persons convicted of a felony automatically have their voting rights restored three years after completion of any term of imprisonment, probation, or parole. Persons convicted of treason, bribery in any election, election fraud, a violent felony offense, or a felony sexual offense are exempt.

The costs of SB 195 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.

According to the Kentucky County Clerks Association, if adopted, the State Board of Elections would be charged with ensuring that those individuals seeking to vote have received some type of verification of the restoration of their voting rights.

**Data Source(s):** LRC staff, Kentucky County Clerks Association

**Preparer:** Jacob Blevins (RB) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/1/24