Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2024 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 2144
Bill #: SB 231
Document ID #: 5820
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 Whitney Westerfield
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: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing
Part II. Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Palating to Local

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

SB 231 proposes to amend Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances.

By the language of the bill and as allowed by Kentucky Constitution Section 25, the proposed amendment would be submitted to the voters at the next regular election at which time members of the General Assembly are chosen. This means that the proposed amendment would be considered in November 2024.

The fiscal impact requiring local governments to add a constitutional amendment to the ballot would be minimal, though for counties with smaller budgets the impact may be minimal to moderate. 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. 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

Preparer: Brandon White (LG) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 3/4/24