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

## **Part I: Measure Information**

<b>Bill Request #:</b> 1203			
Bill #: SB 61			
<b>Document ID #:</b> 2342			
Bill Title:       AN ACT relating to elections.			
Sponsor: Senator John Schickel			
Unit of Government:       City       X       County       X       Urban-County         X       Charter County       X       Consolidated Local       X       Government			
Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks			
Requirement: <u>X</u> Mandatory Optional			
Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New _X Eliminates Existing			

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

SB 61 would amend KRS 117.076 to eliminate no-excuse in-person absentee voting and provide that excused in-person absentee voting shall be conducted during normal business hours for at least 13 working days before an election.

KRS 117.076 currently requires county clerks to provide for any voter to cast an inperson ballot on the Thursday, Friday, or Saturday immediately preceding the day of an election. Under this bill, those early voting days that are available to all voters without the need for an excuse would be eliminated.

Instead, excused in-person voting would be conducted for at least 13 working days before the election at the county clerk's office or another place designated by the county board of elections. To be eligible, a voter would have to make an application in person to the county clerk that includes one of the required valid excuses for not being able to vote on election day. **SB 61 would be expected to have a positive fiscal impact on county clerks by reducing expenditures associated with three days of in-person no-excuse early voting.** The associated costs of early voting vary from county to county. Some smaller counties use the county clerk's office as the location for early voting, while some larger counties use voting centers that allow voters from multiple precincts to vote in the same locations. There are undoubtedly a number of administrative costs associated with conducting early voting that would be eliminated as well.

The number of poll workers employed for early voting days varies from county to county. The wage paid to poll workers also varies, for example, Jefferson County pays poll workers \$40 to attend a training and \$260 for working election day. These costs would be eliminated if SB 61 were enacted.

**SB 61 may have a smaller negative impact on clerks related to an increase in the number of voters voting on election day and voters applying for in-person excused voting that would have otherwise voted early.** More poll workers and/or machines may be necessary to handle increased turnout on the day of the election. There is no way to know how many voters will apply for excused in-person voting who otherwise would have used the early voting option. This may create additional administrative costs for staff to handle excused in-person voting for the 13 working day period.

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

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