

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2025 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #:	1359	Bill #:	HB 470
Document ID #:	2782	Sponsor:	Sarah Stalker
Bill Title:	AN ACT proposing to amend Section 1 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to the environment.		

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

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Other Fiscal Statement(s) that may exist: Actuarial Analysis Corrections Impact
 Health Benefit Mandate State Employee Health Plan

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

If ratified by voters, HB 470 would amend Section 1 of the Constitution of Kentucky to establish a right of the people to have a healthy environment, including a right to clean air, pure water, and ecologically healthy habitats. It would declare Kentucky’s natural resources the common property of all people, including future generations. It would also establish that, as trustee of the environment and its natural resources, the Commonwealth must conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.

The costs of HB 470 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, 2026.

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.

Data Source(s): Harp Enterprises

Preparer: JB **Reviewer:** AS (MDA) **Date:** 2/13/25