

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

## Part I: Measure Information

<b>Bill Request #:</b>	1875	<b>Bill #:</b>	SB 225
<b>Document ID #:</b>	4307	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Senator Keturah J. Herron
<b>Bill Title:</b>	AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to voting rights.		

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Actuarial Analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corrections Impact
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health Benefit Mandate	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Employee Health Plan

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

SB 225, if ratified by voters, would amend Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to automatically restore the voting rights of persons who have been convicted of a felony, not involving treason, bribery in an election, or election fraud, upon the completion of any term of imprisonment, probation, or parole, and to automatically restore their civil rights five years after the completion of any term of imprisonment, probation, or parole.

Section 2 of the bill would propose amending other provisions of Section 145 of the Kentucky Constitution to conform. Section 2 would also amend Section 145 to establish that in order for a person to be disqualified from voting on the grounds of mental incompetence, the person must have been determined so by a court of competent jurisdiction

**The costs of SB 225 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):** LRC Staff; Harp Enterprises

**Preparer:** AS **Reviewer:** JB (MDA) **Date:** 2/19/25