

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2026 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #:	924	Bill #:	HB 216
Document ID #:	987	Sponsor:	Representative Kim Holloway
Bill Title:	AN ACT proposing to amend Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to persons entitled to vote.		

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 216 would amend Section 145 of the Kentucky Constitution to disallow “persons who have been adjudged mentally disabled by a court of competent jurisdiction” from voting in an election. This new language replaces existing language in Section 145 of the Kentucky Constitution that disallows “idiots and insane persons” from voting in elections.

The costs of HB 216 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.

Data Source(s): Harp Enterprises; LRC Staff

Preparer: JR **Reviewer:** JB (MDA) **Date:** 12/11/25