

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

**Part I: Measure Information**

|                        |  |                 |                        |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Bill Request #:</b> | 1470   | <b>Bill #:</b>  | SB 79                  |
| <b>Document ID #:</b>  | 3063   | <b>Sponsor:</b> | Sen. Julie Raque Adams |
| <b>Bill Title:</b>     | AN ACT proposing an amendment to 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, SB 79 would amend Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to prohibit persons from voting who are determined to be mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

**The costs of SB 79 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:** JB **Reviewer:** BW (MDA) **Date:** 2/12/26