

elections to designate certain buildings as voting places all days of excused and no-excuse in-person absentee voting.

Section 4 would amend KRS 117.066 to require petitions to consolidate precincts be submitted by county boards of elections at least 120 days before a primary election and that the approved petitions shall apply for the entire year.

Section 5 would amend KRS 117.076 to allow any person prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day and from casting a no-excuse in-person absentee ballot, because of absence from the county of his or her residence to cast an excused in-person absentee ballot.

Section 6 would amend KRS 117.085 to require that mail-in absentee ballots be mailed by county clerks to a student's residence or current address at the educational institution where he or she is enrolled.

Language that prohibits the information contained in an application for mail-in absentee ballots from being made public until after the close of business hours on the day of a primary or regular election would be eliminated.

Section 12 would amend KRS 117.295 to allow the county clerk to dispose of video surveillance of voting equipment after 60 days, or upon completion of any investigation or pending litigation.

KRS 118.415 is amended to remove references to participation by the Attorney General in the formation of a ballot question for a proposed constitutional amendment. The General Assembly would be required to state the entirety of a proposed constitutional amendment in the form of a question and certify the question to the Secretary of State to be placed on ballots no later than April 15 preceding the applicable regular election. Currently the amendment can be rephrased in a manner calculated to inform the electorate of the substance of the amendment. The deadline is also currently 14 days preceding the first Tuesday in August preceding the applicable regular election.

KRS 118.740 is amended to require copies of certain proclamations or writs of election be forwarded by mail to the sheriff of a county at least 63 days before an election and that the sheriff shall give notice at least 56 days before the day of an election. Both of these deadlines would be moved up by 7 days relative to the current language.

KRS 118.770 is amended to require that certain certificates of nomination be filed at least 56 days before an election instead of the currently required 49 days.

KRS 119.115 is amended to add tampering, attempting to tamper with, deface, impair, injure, or destroy any e-poll book or election administration information system to a list of Class D felony offenses.

KRS 160.190 is amended to require candidates for school board vacancies to file nominating petitions not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the regular election, and to file declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate in accordance with KRS 117.265.

Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a) of Section 2 of this Act, require that members appointed by the State Board of Elections to the county board of elections whose terms expire on June 30, 2024, shall be reappointed by the State Board of Elections for a term of one year to expire on June 30, 2025.

The Act declares an emergency and states that the bill would take effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Section 1 may create new administrative costs, however the Kentucky County Clerks Association (KCCA) believes these costs will be borne by the State Board of Elections.

The change in deadlines for county boards of elections to establish voting locations or file a petition to consolidate precincts may initially create additional expenditures as processes are changed to comply with **Sections 3 and 4**. KCCA does not expect these costs to be significant.

Section 5 is not expected to affect the number of voters casting excused in-person absentee ballots according to the KCCA.

Section 6 is not expected to have a significant impact on expenditures for county clerks who are responsible for mailing out absentee ballots.

The formation of a proposed constitutional amendment on a ballot, may lead to additional ballot pages due to printing the entirety of the question. 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. It has been estimated that the cost of one extra page for a ballot is \$0.25.

The fiscal impact of Section 2 would result in minor increased expenditures for fiscal courts due to the increase in minimum county boards of elections per diem payments to board members.

The fiscal impact of moving up the deadline by which sheriffs are required to give notice of a writ of election or proclamation by 7 days is expected to be minimal.

The fiscal impact of expanding the elements of a crime for tampering, attempting to tamper with, deface, impair, injure, or destroy any e-poll book or election administration information system as a Class D felony offense is expected to be minimal on local jails. Though it cannot be determined how often such violations would occur, they are expected to be rare.

When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 74 full-service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an average cost to incarcerate of \$44.97, which includes the \$35.34 per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house felony offenders. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full-service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$35.34 per day to house a Class D felon. The per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Kentucky Department of Corrections; Kentucky County Clerks Association; Harp Enterprises

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