AN ACT relating to elections and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 117 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The State Board of Elections shall establish, maintain, and continuously update a computerized map of Kentucky containing census geography and election precinct boundaries.

(2) The computerized map required by this section shall at a minimum allow the board to:

(a) Maintain census geography and election precinct boundaries in a standard geographic information system (GIS) format;

(b) Receive and upload to the map electronic maps of election precinct boundaries submitted by the county boards of elections under Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act;

(c) Upload and view the boundaries of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth's counties, and the boundaries of Congressional, state senatorial, state representative, and justice of the peace or county commissioner's districts, and the boundaries of aldermanic wards, to ensure that the establishment of precincts by a county board of elections complies with subsection (1) of Section 3 of this Act;

(d) Publicly display, consistent with subsection (3) of this section, maps of election precinct boundaries; and

(e) Disseminate, consistent with subsection (4) of this section, maps of election precinct boundaries.

(3) The State Board of Elections shall establish a Web site or portion of its existing Web site to display, at all times, the official election precinct boundaries established by the county boards of elections and approved by the State Board of

1 ***Elections, subject to the following:***
2 ***(a) The Web site shall be updated within fourteen (14) days of the State Board***
3 ***of Elections' approval of any precinct establishment order submitted by a***
4 ***county board of elections;***
5 ***(b) The Web site shall be updated and display the election precinct boundaries***
6 ***effective for primaries and regular or special elections as follows:***
7 ***1. For primaries, no later than fourteen (14) days after the last date***
8 ***prescribed by election law generally for filing notification and***
9 ***declaration forms with the county clerk or Secretary of State; and***
10 ***2. For regular and special elections, no later than seven (7) days after***
11 ***the last date prescribed by election law generally for filing certificates***
12 ***or petitions of nomination with the county clerk or Secretary of State;***
13 ***(c) The Web site shall include a disclaimer noting the date of the last and most***
14 ***recent update of the county election precinct boundaries; and***
15 ***(d) Any preliminary update made by the county boards of elections prior to***
16 ***approval by the State Board of Elections and the dates specified in***
17 ***paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection shall, as to the State Board of***
18 ***Elections, be exempt from the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act,***
19 ***KRS 61.870 to 61.884, and may, at the sole discretion of the board, be***
20 ***withheld from public display and dissemination, except as provided in***
21 ***subsection (5) of this section and except that:***
22 ***1. The last and most recently approved election precinct boundaries of***
23 ***each county shall at all times be displayed to the public, and be***
24 ***available for dissemination consistent with subsection (4) of this***
25 ***section, by the board; and***
26 ***2. Any dissemination of a preliminary update by the board to any person***
27 ***or entity other than to a county board of elections or its agents or***

assigns, or to the Legislative Research Commission or its designee, shall require the board to disseminate the preliminary update to any requesting party.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing a policy of disseminating paper and electronic maps of the official election precinct boundaries maintained in its computerized map of Kentucky, subject to the following:

(a) Except as provided in this subsection and subsection (5) of this section, the policy shall be consistent with KRS 61.874;

(b) The board shall provide a means for any user to access, from the user's own computer, the Web site display of election precinct boundaries and to download, at no cost to the user, an electronic map of one (1) or more of the county's election precinct boundaries in a format chosen by the board;

(c) The board may specify that any request for paper maps of election precinct boundaries, or any request for electronic maps of election precinct boundaries in a format other than that chosen by the board under paragraph (b) of this subsection, is for a commercial purpose, which may include a fee as provided in KRS 61.874; and

(d) Any fees collected by the board shall be credited to the Kentucky elections technology trust fund established pursuant to Section 2 of this Act.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to the contrary, the State Board of Elections shall disseminate an electronic map or file of the statewide election precinct boundaries or of an individual county's election precinct boundaries to the Legislative Research Commission, in a format specified by the Commission or its designee, as follows:

(a) Within seven (7) days of an approval by the State Board of Elections of any precinct establishment order submitted by a county board of elections or of any update to the Web site display of election precinct boundaries required by subsection (3) of this section; or

(b) Within seven (7) days of any written request by the Commission or its designee for either the official election precinct boundaries established by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections or any preliminary updates by a county board of elections, or both.

➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 117 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The Kentucky elections technology trust fund is established as a separate fund to be administered by the Finance and Administration Cabinet for the use of the State Board of Elections. The fund may receive contributions, gifts, donations, appropriations, fees, and any other moneys made available for the fund.

(2) The trust fund shall be used by the State Board of Elections to establish, maintain, and update the computerized map of Kentucky required by Section 1 of this Act, and all amounts included in the fund are appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section.

(3) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any moneys remaining in the fund at the close of a fiscal year and any interest earnings of the fund at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the succeeding fiscal year to be used to execute the day-to-day responsibilities of maintaining and updating the computerized map of Kentucky established pursuant to Section 1 of this Act.

(4) The Finance and Administration Cabinet may promulgate an administrative regulation pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to establish the requirements for reporting, remitting, and depositing moneys into the trust fund.

➔Section 3. KRS 117.055 is amended to read as follows:

Subject to KRS 117.0551 to 117.0555:

(1) Each county shall be divided into election precincts by the county board of elections. Each election precinct shall be composed of contiguous and, as nearly as practicable, compact areas having clearly definable boundaries and wholly contained within any larger district. The county board of elections shall establish precincts so that no boundary of a precinct crosses the boundary of:

(a) The Commonwealth;

(b) A county or urban-county;

(c) A congressional district;

(d) A state senatorial district;

(e) A state representative district;

(f) A justice of the peace or county commissioner's district established under KRS Chapter 67; or

(g) An aldermanic ward established under KRS 83.440.

(2) The county board of elections shall have the authority to draw precinct lines so as to enable more than one (1) precinct to vote at one (1) location. The county board of elections shall review election precinct boundaries as often as necessary. Without exception, they shall review the boundaries of all election precincts exceeding seven hundred (700) votes cast in the last regular election prior to each primary election, and the State Board of Elections may require a written report at least sixty (60) days prior to the candidate filing deadline set forth in KRS 118.165(1) on each election precinct exceeding seven hundred (700) votes cast in the last regular election. Consideration to the division of said election precincts should be based on the anticipated growth factor within the specified boundaries; however, the county board of elections shall not be prohibited from dividing election precincts in excess of seven hundred (700) votes cast in the last regular election or less than seven hundred (700) votes cast in the last regular election if they elect to do so. However,

the State Board of Elections may, in its discretion, withhold from a county the expenses of an election under KRS 117.345 for any precinct containing more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) registered voters, excluding those precincts utilizing optical scan voting machines and those periods of time in which the precinct boundaries have been frozen under KRS 117.056.

(3) No election precinct shall be created, divided, abolished, or consolidated or the boundaries therein changed prior to any primary election to comply with the provisions of KRS 117.055 to 117.0555 and KRS 117.0557 later than the last date prescribed by election law generally for filing notification and declaration forms with the county clerk or Secretary of State. No election precinct shall be created, divided, abolished, or consolidated or the boundaries therein changed prior to any general election to comply with the provisions of KRS 117.055 to 117.0555 and KRS 117.0557 later than the last date prescribed by election law generally for filing certificates or petitions of nomination with the county clerk or Secretary of State.

(4) The county board of elections shall designate the name or number and the boundaries of the election precincts. Each precinct shall contain, as nearly as practicable, an equal number of voters, based on the number of registered voters in the county.

(5) ***(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,*** a ***paper*** map and listing of the exact election precinct boundaries shall be filed by the county board of elections with the State Board of Elections, and any changes in boundaries thereafter made shall also be filed with the State Board of Elections.~~[A copy of this map indicating all precinct boundaries within the county shall be included in the election supplies of each precinct.]~~

(b) A county board of elections may file an electronic map depicting its election precinct boundaries with the State Board of Elections in lieu of a paper map and listing of the exact election precinct boundaries. If a county board of

elections elects to file an electronic map under this paragraph, the map shall be filed in a format approved by the State Board of Elections.

(c) A paper copy of the map indicating all precinct boundaries within the county shall be included in the election supplies of each precinct.

(6) If the county board of elections fails to perform any of the duties required by KRS 117.055 to 117.0555 and KRS 117.0557:

(a) The State Board of Elections or any citizen and voter of the county may apply to the Circuit Court of the county for a summary mandatory order requiring the board to perform the duty. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Appeals by either party; and

(b) The State Board of Elections shall not submit claims for payments to the county under KRS 117.343 and 117.345 until the State Board of Elections determines in writing that the duty has been performed.

(7) The county board of elections shall coordinate all precinct boundary changes with the affected school board, magisterial, and municipal boundaries.

➔Section 4. KRS 117.0551 is amended to read as follows:

(1) A county board of elections shall establish election precincts so that each boundary of each precinct follows:

(a) A boundary described in KRS 117.055(1);

(b) The boundary of an incorporated city;

(c) A boundary of an urban-county legislative district established under KRS Chapter 67A;

(d) A boundary of a school district or school district division established under KRS Chapter 160; or

(e) A boundary of a census tract or census block established by the United States Bureau of the Census for the most recent decennial census of population and appearing on census block boundary maps.

(2) If a county board of elections cannot establish a precinct that complies with KRS 117.055 by using the boundaries permitted under subsection (1) of this section, the county board of elections may~~[either]~~:

(a) Establish the precinct boundary by using a boundary following a visible feature, including but not limited to a highway, railroad, or stream, and an extension of that visible feature to, but not across, another visible feature, nor across an extension of another feature that is used as a precinct boundary;~~[or]~~

(b) ***Establish the precinct boundary by using a boundary defined by two (2) or more global positioning system (GPS) x/y coordinate pairs, if the county files an electronic map depicting its proposed precinct boundary under subsection (5)(b) of Section 3 of this Act; or***

(c) Request an exemption under KRS 117.0553 and 117.0554.

(3) For purposes of this section, a "visible feature" is a physical feature shown on official maps prepared by:

(a) The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet;

(b) The United States Geological Survey;~~[or]~~

(c) The United States Bureau of the Census***; or***

(d) The Kentucky Geography Network.

➔Section 5. KRS 117.0552 is amended to read as follows:

(1) As used in KRS 117.055 to 117.0555 and KRS 117.0557, "establish a precinct" shall include the following:

(a) Creating a new precinct;

(b) Dividing one (1) precinct into two (2) or more precincts;

(c) Combining two (2) or more precincts into one (1) precinct; and

(d) Altering a boundary line between two (2) or more precincts.

(2) Each county board of elections shall establish precincts by issuing a proposed precinct establishment order. Each proposed precinct establishment order shall be

submitted to the executive director of the State Board of Elections for approval.

(3) The order prescribed in subsection (2) of this section shall include:

(a) A written description of the boundaries of each precinct to be established***, if the county board of elections files a paper map of the precinct or precincts***;

(b) A ***paper or electronic*** map or maps clearly showing the boundaries of each precinct to be established***, except that any electronic map or maps shall be submitted in a format approved by the State Board of Elections***;

(c) The estimated number of registered voters in each precinct to be established; and

(d) Any additional information which may be required by an administrative regulation adopted by the State Board of Elections under KRS Chapter 13A for the purposes of assuring compliance with KRS 117.055 to 117.0555 and KRS 117.0557.

(4) If a proposed precinct establishment order includes a ***paper map and*** description of a precinct with a boundary that follows the boundary of an entity referred to in KRS 117.0551(1), the order shall include the following:

(a) A description that precisely identifies the boundary line; and

(b) A notation on the ***paper*** map of the precinct indicating that the boundary is that of an entity referred to in KRS 117.0551(1) and naming the specific entity.

(5) If a proposed precinct establishment order includes a ***paper map and*** description of a precinct boundary that follows one or more visible features, the order shall include a description that precisely identifies each feature that forms the precinct boundary.

➔Section 6. KRS 117.0556 is amended to read as follows:

For the purposes of implementing KRS 7.550:

(1) The State Board of Elections shall provide the Legislative Research Commission:

(a) A copy of each proposed precinct establishment order submitted under KRS

117.0552;

(b) A copy of each request for an exemption filed under KRS 117.0553 and 117.0554;

(c) Notice of the time and place of any hearing on a request for an exemption held under KRS 117.0554; and

(d) A copy of each precinct establishment order approved under KRS 117.0553 to 117.0555.

(2) The Legislative Research Commission or its designee shall be given an opportunity to ***review***~~[comment upon]~~ any proposed order or request for an exemption made under KRS 117.0553 to 117.0555 prior to the State Board of Elections' approval of the order or decision on the request.

➔Section 7. KRS 7.550 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Legislative Research Commission shall serve as the legislative department's liaison with the United States Bureau of the Census for purposes of Kentucky's participation in and receipt of census maps and data under programs implementing United States Public Law 94-171, relating to the development of population data for redistricting.

(2) The Legislative Research Commission shall maintain and continuously update a computerized map of Kentucky containing census geography and election precinct boundaries ***for the General Assembly's use in redistricting. The election precinct boundaries shall be derived from the boundaries established by the county boards of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, except that the Legislative Research Commission may, for the sole purpose of redistricting, alter in its computerized map the depiction of any election precinct boundary established by a county board of elections that does not follow a boundary utilized by the United States Bureau of the Census for reporting population data***.

(3) The Legislative Research Commission shall ***be given an opportunity to*** review any

proposed precinct establishment order and request for an exemption made under KRS 117.0552 to 117.0554 to determine the effect of the proposed order or exemption upon the Commonwealth's participation in programs to implement United States Public Law 94-171.~~[If the Commission determines that the proposed order or exemption would have an adverse effect upon the Commonwealth's ability to participate in the programs, it shall so advise the State Board of Elections.]~~

(4) The Legislative Research Commission may direct its interim joint subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction to perform or oversee the performance of the responsibilities assigned to the Commission by this section.

➔Section 8. KRS 67.045 is amended to read as follows:

(1) For the purposes of this section the word "district" shall mean:

(a) Justice's of the peace district in counties having a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and the justices of the peace;

(b) County commissioner's district in counties having a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and three (3) county commissioners; or

(c) Justice's of the peace district in counties having a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and three (3) county commissioners established according to KRS 67.060.

(2) In counties where the members of the county fiscal court are nominated or elected by districts, the boundaries of those districts shall be drawn so that the districts are compact, contiguous, and the population of each district shall be as nearly equal as is reasonably possible.

(3) In counties where the fiscal court consists of the county judge/executive and three (3) county commissioners established according to KRS 67.060, the justice of the peace districts shall be coextensive with the three (3) county commissioner districts.

(4) ***(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,*** the fiscal court shall initiate ***redistricting***~~[reapportionment]~~ proceedings in May of the first year

following the decennial census of the United States.

(b) In lieu of initiating redistricting proceedings in May of the first year following the decennial census of the United States, the fiscal court may defer redistricting its districts until after the General Assembly has redistricted the Kentucky senatorial and representative districts, except that the fiscal court shall initiate redistricting proceedings no later than May of the third year following each decennial census of the United States.

(c) The fiscal court may, at other times, review the district boundaries and shall initiate ***redistricting***~~[reapportionment]~~ proceedings if the district boundaries are in violation of subsection (2) of this section.

(5) To initiate a ***redistricting***~~[reapportionment]~~ proceeding, the fiscal court shall publish notice of the planned ***redistricting***~~[reapportionment]~~ in accordance with KRS Chapter 424 and appoint three (3) competent citizens of the county over twenty-one (21) years of age, and residing in different districts, and the county clerk as a nonvoting member as commissioners to ***redistrict***~~[reapportion]~~ the county into not less than three (3) nor more than eight (8) justices' districts in counties having a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and the justices of the peace or three (3) commissioner's districts in counties having a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and county commissioners. The commissioners, before they proceed to act, shall be sworn to faithfully perform their duties. They shall receive out of the county treasury a reasonable compensation for their services, fixed by the fiscal court.

(6) The commissioners shall, within sixty (60) days after their appointment, lay off the boundary lines of the districts. They shall file in the office of the county clerk and with each member of the fiscal court a written report, showing the boundary of each district and the estimated population in each. Within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the report, the fiscal court shall consider the report of the commissioners and, in

accordance with the provisions of KRS 67.075 to 67.077, adopt or amend the report in establishing the districts. In no event shall districts be ***redistricted***~~[reapportioned]~~ during the period from thirty (30) days prior to the last date for filing for candidacy for county office as provided in KRS 118.165 and the regular election for candidates for county office.

(7) Precinct lines shall be redrawn when necessary in accordance with the provisions of KRS 117.055. No precinct shall be in more than one (1) district.

(8) Within twenty (20) days of the establishment of the districts by the fiscal court, any registered voter of the county may bring an action in the Circuit Court to enforce the provisions of this section. The Circuit Court shall hear the action and, on a finding that the fiscal court has violated the provisions of this section, remand the matter to the fiscal court. The Circuit Court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the fiscal court, a reasonable attorney's fee, to be paid from the county treasury, as part of the costs.

➔Section 9. KRS 67.050 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Any county may have a fiscal court consisting of the county judge/executive and three (3) commissioners elected from the county at large. To ascertain whether the county desires to have county commissioners, the county judge/executive, upon an application by written petition signed by registered voters of the county equal in number to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of votes cast in the county in the preceding presidential election or one thousand two hundred (1,200) registered voters of the county, whichever is less, shall enter an order on his order book calling an election to submit to the legal voters of the county the following question: "Are you for or against having a fiscal court composed of three (3) commissioners and the county judge/executive?" The order shall be entered at the next regular term after the petition is filed, and shall direct the election to be held at the next regular election to be held in the county if the order is filed with the county

clerk not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day of the regular election. The county clerk shall give to the sheriff or other officer appointed to hold the election a certified copy of the order within five (5) days after the order is made, and the sheriff or other officer shall have the order published pursuant to KRS Chapter 424 and in addition advertise it by printed handbills posted at one (1) or more conspicuous places in each precinct in the county for the length of time that publication is required, stating when the election will be held and the purpose thereof.

(2) All such elections shall be held under the general election laws. No such election shall be held in any county more often than once in four (4) years.

(3) Any county that has voted in favor of having county commissioners may return to its prior form of government by following the same procedures as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, by which it chose to have county commissioners. A petition for an election on a return to a fiscal court composed of justices of the peace and the county judge/executive shall state a proposed number of justices of the peace. The question to be submitted to the voters shall be in the following form: "Are you in favor of a return to a fiscal court composed of the county judge/executive and (insert the proposed number of justices) justices of the peace who shall represent specific districts within the county?"

(4) If a majority of the votes cast at an election held under subsection (3) of this section are in favor of a return to a fiscal court composed of justices of the peace and the county judge/executive, the fiscal court shall, if necessary, initiate proceedings to ***redistrict***~~[reapportion]~~ the justices districts, and such ***redistricting***~~[reapportionment]~~ shall conform to the requirements of KRS 67.045. The change in the composition of the fiscal court shall become effective upon the assumption of office of justices of the peace elected at the next regular election for that office.

➔Section 10. KRS 67C.103 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The legislative authority of a consolidated local government, except as otherwise specified in KRS 67C.101 to 67C.137, shall be vested in a consolidated local government council. The members of the council shall be nominated and elected by district. There shall be only one (1) council member elected from each council district.

(2) There shall be twenty-six (26) council districts. The initial boundaries, population, and numerical designation of the council districts shall be as specified by KRS 67C.135. The population of the council districts shall be as nearly equal as is reasonably possible. For any newly consolidated local governments whose officials take office in 2003, upon taking office, the legislative council may take action to adjust the boundaries and population of the districts in order to equalize the population of the districts which may have changed as a result of recent census information. Any changes made to alter the boundaries of council districts shall be based on the population of the county as determined by the most recent United States Census or official census estimates as provided by the United States Bureau of the Census.

(3) Following the official publication of each decennial census by the United States Bureau of the Census for the area embraced by a consolidated local government, the council shall adopt an ordinance, if necessary, to redistrict the council districts ***according to the time periods established in subsection (5) of Section 11 of this Act***. A redistricting ordinance shall provide for the distribution of population among the council districts as nearly equal as is reasonably possible. Every council district shall be compact and contiguous and shall respect existing neighborhood, community, and city boundaries whenever possible.

(4) The consolidated local government council members shall serve for a term of four (4) years beginning on the first Monday in January following their election except that the initial election of council members shall be in a manner as to provide for

staggered terms for council members. At the initial election of the members of a consolidated local government council, those representing even-numbered districts shall be elected for a two (2) year term. Those representing odd-numbered districts shall be elected for a four (4) year term. Thereafter, all council members shall be elected for four (4) year terms.

(5) The members of a consolidated local government council shall be nominated and elected from the district in which they reside in partisan elections. After the initial terms of office of the first elected council members, council members shall be elected in the same election years as other local government officials as regulated by the regular election laws of the Commonwealth and as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of a consolidated local government council unless he or she is at least eighteen (18) years old, a qualified voter, and a resident within the territory of the consolidated local government and the district that he or she seeks to represent for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the person's election. A council member shall continue to reside within the district from which he or she was elected throughout the term of office.

(7) The presiding officer of a consolidated local government council shall be a president who shall be chosen annually by a majority vote of the entire council from among its members at the first meeting of the council in January. The council president has the right to introduce any resolution or recommend any ordinance and shall be entitled to vote on all matters.

(8) The consolidated local government council shall upon notice meet within seven (7) days after its members have taken office, and shall thereafter hold at least two (2) regular meetings per month. No newspaper notice shall be required for regular or special meetings of the consolidated local government council. However, notice of all meetings of the council and all meetings of committees of the council shall be

held pursuant to KRS 61.805 to 61.850.

(9) A majority of the members of the consolidated local government council shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day. The consolidated local government council may enforce the attendance of members by rules or ordinances with appropriate fines. The mayor or two-thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of the council may call a special meeting at any time. Meetings shall be held in such places in the county as are provided by ordinance, and the place of meetings shall not be changed except by an ordinance for which two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the consolidated local government council have voted.

(10) The council shall determine its own rules and order of business, and keep and provide a public record of its proceedings. The council shall provide for the publication of all ordinances in a composite code of ordinances.

(11) Council ordinances that prescribe penalties for their violation shall be enforced through the entire area of the consolidated local government unless:

(a) Otherwise provided by statute; or

(b) The legislative body of any city within the consolidated local government area has adopted an ordinance pertaining to the same subject matter that is the same as or more stringent than the standards set forth in the consolidated local government's ordinance.

(12) In the case of a vacancy on the consolidated local government council by reason of death, resignation, or removal, the council by majority vote of the membership of the council shall elect a qualified resident of the council district not later than thirty (30) days after the date the vacancy occurs. Should the council fail to elect, by majority vote of the membership of the council, a qualified person to fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days, the mayor of the consolidated local government shall fill the vacancy by appointment of a qualified person for the unexpired term.

(13) All legislative powers of a consolidated local government are vested in the

consolidated local government council. The term "legislative power" is to be construed broadly and shall include the power to:

(a) Enact ordinances, orders, and resolutions, and override a veto of the mayor by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership of the legislative council;

(b) Review the budgets of and appropriate money to the consolidated local government;

(c) Adopt a budget ordinance;

(d) Levy taxes, subject to the limitations of the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

(e) Establish standing and temporary committees; and

(f) Make independent audits and investigations concerning the affairs of the consolidated local government.

(14) The consolidated local government council shall be known as the legislative council of ...../..... County Metro Government, which shall be a combination of the names of the largest city in existence in the county on the date of the adoption of the consolidated local government and the county.

➔Section 11. KRS 67C.135 is amended to read as follows:

(1) After certification of the election at which the voters of a county containing a city of the first class have approved the consolidation of a city of the first class and the county and after receipt of the 2000 census data, a plan to divide the county into twenty-six (26) legislative council districts shall be submitted to the fiscal court in order to establish the initial boundaries of the legislative council districts for the newly consolidated government.

(2) The district plan for the legislative council shall be prepared and submitted by representatives of a department of geography from the largest public university that exists within the county.

(3) Upon submission of the plan that lays out the initial boundaries of the legislative

council districts, the fiscal court shall approve the plan within thirty (30) days as submitted and without amendment.

(4) The boundaries of the districts shall be drawn so that the districts are compact and contiguous, and the population of each district shall be as nearly equal as is reasonably possible.

(5) ***(a)*** Thereafter, and not less than every ten (10) years***, except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection***, the legislative council shall initiate ***redistricting***[~~reapportionment~~] proceedings in May of the first year following the decennial census of the United States to review the districts and ***redistrict***[~~reapportion~~] them if necessary.

(b) In lieu of initiating redistricting proceedings in May of the first year following the decennial census of the United States, the legislative council may defer redistricting its districts until after the General Assembly has redistricted the Kentucky senatorial and representative districts, except that the legislative council shall initiate redistricting proceedings no later than May of the third year following each decennial census of the United States.

(6) To initiate a ***redistricting***[~~reapportionment~~] proceeding, the legislative council shall publish notice of the planned ***redistricting***[~~reapportionment~~] in accordance with KRS Chapter 424.

(7) In no event shall districts be ***redistricted***[~~reapportioned~~] during the period from thirty (30) days prior to the last date for filing for candidacy for local government office as provided in KRS 118.165 and the regular election for candidates for local government office.

(8) Precinct lines shall be drawn when necessary in accordance with the provisions of law. No precinct shall be in more than one (1) district.

(9) Within twenty (20) days of the establishment of the districts by the legislative council, any registered voter of the county may bring an action in the Circuit Court

to enforce the provisions of this section. The Circuit Court shall hear the action and, on a finding that the legislative council has violated the provisions of this section, remand the matter to the legislative council. The Circuit Court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the legislative council, a reasonable attorney's fee, to be paid from the treasury of the local government, as part of the costs.

➔Section 12. The State Board of Elections shall cause the computerized map of Kentucky containing census geography and election precinct boundaries required by Section 1 of this Act to be developed and implemented no later than June 1, 2018.

➔Section 13. Sections 3 to 5 of this Act shall take effect June 1, 2018.