

S. 563 Summary

Section 1 amends the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) enabling legislation to clarify the organization, structure, and duties of the board. Appointments to the board are specified along with the responsibility to unanimously select an Executive Director, who serves a four-year term. Reporting duties are enumerated for the RFA board that were previously under the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) enabling statutes. Assisting the General Assembly on matters relating to precinct boundary development and review is assigned to RFA rather than the Office of Precinct Demographics. RFA is required to assist the General Assembly with the development of the annual appropriations act.

Section 2 is amended to clarify that RFA board appoints the Executive Director, not the BEA. The members of the BEA must be the same individuals appointed to the RFA board in Section 11-9-1120. Data reports from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Revenue are provided to RFA since many sections of the RFA utilize these data.

Section 3 specifies that RFA staff be supplemented by professionals from the following officials: the Governor's Office, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Director of the Department of Revenue in order to solicit their input on BEA forecasts and monthly revenue analysis. Existing code sections are clarified by naming the RFA board rather than the BEA to monitor and evaluate total revenue and expenditures, meet quarterly, and speak as one voice through the chairman on economic activity.

Section 5 deletes obsolete language.

Section 6 amends provisions relating to fiscal impact statements to conform the language to changes made in Act 121 of 2014. These amendments require that the fiscal impact be signed or certified by the Executive Director of RFA or his designee. The amendment to Section 2-7-73 transfers responsibility for the financial impact analysis of bills mandating health coverage to the Department of Insurance.

Section 7 amends Section 4-10-790 to require the Department of Revenue to provide sales tax data on gross receipts, net taxable sales, and tax liability by taxpayer to the State Treasurer and local political subdivisions upon request in order to calculate revenue from a local option sales tax. RFA will provide technical assistance to the local governments in calculating potential revenue distributions.

Section 8 changes the due date for counties and municipalities for submitting financial data to RFA from January fifteenth to March fifteenth. This is requested to assist local governments. The section also corrects a reference requiring RFA to notify the State Treasurer that a county or municipality has failed to file its annual financial report. If the financial report is unfiled, the State Treasurer must withhold ten percent of Aid to Subdivisions appropriations to the local government until the report is filed.

Section 9 amends two appointments made by the Governor to the South Carolina 911 Advisory Committee. The first appointment replaces a director of a division of the State Budget and Control Board with an individual with technical or operational knowledge of the E-911 system who is appointed by the Executive Director of RFA. The second appointment language is amended to allow the Executive Director of RFA or his designee to be appointed to the advisory committee.

Section 10 pertains to the appointments to the Data Oversight Council in Section 44-6-170. The amendment deletes the appointments of a representative of the Human Services Coordinating Council and the chairman or his designee of the State Health Planning Committee. These two entities do not exist anymore. This section also names RFA rather than the Office of Research and Statistics as the agency responsible for promulgating regulations and providing staff assistance to the Data Oversight Council.

Section 11 repeals Section 1-11-360, the responsibilities for which are contained in Section 11-9-1130 in section 1 of this bill, and is therefore unnecessary. Section 11 also repeals Section 2-7-62 that required RFA at each stage of the consideration of the annual general appropriations act to submit a report to the General Assembly on the transfer of funds resulting from the transfer of programs, functions, or responsibilities between agencies of state government. Responsibility for this report was transferred from the State Auditor's Office in 1981 and has never been requested.

Section 12 requires the Code Commissioner to change or correct all references to the Office of Research and Statistics to the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.