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Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

February 26, 2014

**H. 4364**

Introduced by Reps. Cobb‑Hunter, Douglas, M.S. McLeod, Whipper and R.L. Brown

S. Printed 2/26/14--H.

Read the first time January 14, 2014.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 4364) to amend Section 7‑3‑20, as amended, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the selection and duties of the executive director of the State Election Commission, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Section 7‑3‑20(C) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 265 of 2012, is further amended to read:

“(C) The executive director shall:

(1) maintain a complete master file of all qualified electors by county and by precincts;

(2) delete the name of any elector:

(a) who is deceased;

(b) who is no longer qualified to vote in the precinct where currently registered;

(c) who has been convicted of a disqualifying crime;

(d) who is otherwise no longer qualified to vote as may be provided by law; or

(e) who requests in writing that his name be removed;

(3) enter names on the master file as they are reported by the county registration boards;

(4) furnish each county registration board with a master list of all registered voters in the county, together with a copy of all registered voters in each precinct of the county, at least ten days prior to each election. The precinct copies shall be used as the official list of voters;

(5) maintain all information furnished his office relating to the inclusion or deletion of names from the master file for four years;

(6) purchase, lease, or contract for the use of such equipment as may be necessary to properly execute the duties of his office, subject to the approval of the State Election Commission;

(7) secure from the United States courts and federal and state agencies available information as to persons convicted of disqualifying crimes;

(8) obtain information from any other source which may assist him in carrying out the purposes of this section;

(9) perform such other duties relating to elections as may be assigned him by the State Election Commission;

(10) furnish at reasonable price any precinct lists to a qualified elector requesting them;

(11) serve as the chief state election official responsible for implementing and coordinating the state’s responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993;

(12) serve as the chief state election official responsible for implementing and enforcing the state’s responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as set forth in the U.S.C., Title 42, Section 1973ff, et seq; and

(13) establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall be administered by the commission and made continuously available to each board of elections and to other agencies as authorized by law; and

(14) publish on the commission’s website each change to voting procedures by act or joint resolution of the General Assembly, or by ordinance of a political subdivision of the State, relating to the election laws of the State together with a brief explanation, if necessary, of each such enactment. Enactments and any accompanying explanations published on the commission’s website pursuant to this item must remain on the commission’s website at least through the date of the next general election.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to applicable legislation affecting voting procedures enacted or ordained that take effect after 2013. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

F. GREGORY DELLENEY for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑3‑20, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE SELECTION AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PUBLISH ON THE COMMISSION’S WEBSITE ACTS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFECTING THE ELECTION LAWS OF THIS STATE TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF EXPLANATION, IF NECESSARY, OF EACH SUCH ENACTMENT, TO PROVIDE THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE ENACTMENTS REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED, AND THE DURATION OF THE WEBSITE PUBLICATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 7‑3‑20(C) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 265 of 2012, is further amended to read:

“(C) The executive director shall:

(1) maintain a complete master file of all qualified electors by county and by precincts;

(2) delete the name of any elector:

(a) who is deceased;

(b) who is no longer qualified to vote in the precinct where currently registered;

(c) who has been convicted of a disqualifying crime;

(d) who is otherwise no longer qualified to vote as may be provided by law; or

(e) who requests in writing that his name be removed;

(3) enter names on the master file as they are reported by the county registration boards;

(4) furnish each county registration board with a master list of all registered voters in the county, together with a copy of all registered voters in each precinct of the county, at least ten days prior to each election. The precinct copies shall be used as the official list of voters;

(5) maintain all information furnished his office relating to the inclusion or deletion of names from the master file for four years;

(6) purchase, lease, or contract for the use of such equipment as may be necessary to properly execute the duties of his office, subject to the approval of the State Election Commission;

(7) secure from the United States courts and federal and state agencies available information as to persons convicted of disqualifying crimes;

(8) obtain information from any other source which may assist him in carrying out the purposes of this section;

(9) perform such other duties relating to elections as may be assigned him by the State Election Commission;

(10) furnish at reasonable price any precinct lists to a qualified elector requesting them;

(11) serve as the chief state election official responsible for implementing and coordinating the state’s responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993;

(12) serve as the chief state election official responsible for implementing and enforcing the state’s responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), as set forth in the U.S.C., Title 42, Section 1973ff, et seq; and

(13) establish and maintain a statewide voter registration database that shall be administered by the commission and made continuously available to each board of elections and to other agencies as authorized by law; and

(14) publish on the commission’s website each act and joint resolution of the General Assembly relating to the election law of this State together with a brief explanation, if necessary, of each such enactment. In determining those enactments required to be published, the executive director shall select those required to be ‘precleared’ by the United States Department of Justice or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 as that section applied in this State before June 25, 2013. Enactments and any accompanying explanations published on the commission’s website pursuant to this item must remain on the commission’s website at least through the date of the next general election.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and applies to applicable legislation enacted by the General Assembly of this State and taking effect after 2013.

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