



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** H. 3150 Amended by the House of Representatives on March 29, 2017  
**Author:** Funderburk  
**Subject:** Municipal Elections  
**Requestor:** Senate Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Kokolis and Heineman  
**Impact Date:** May 2, 2017

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

|                                  | <b>FY 2017-18</b> | <b>FY 2018-19</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>State Expenditure</b>         |                   |                   |
| General Fund                     | \$0               | \$0               |
| Other and Federal                | \$0               | \$0               |
| Full-Time Equivalent Position(s) | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| <b>State Revenue</b>             |                   |                   |
| General Fund                     | \$0               | \$0               |
| Other and Federal                | \$0               | \$0               |
| <b>Local Expenditure</b>         | Undetermined      | \$0               |
| <b>Local Revenue</b>             | \$0               | \$0               |

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. The expenditure impact on local election authorities is undetermined because data is not available to develop an estimate.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Amended by the House of Representatives on March 29, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

The bill as amended requires election officials to hold elections for municipal offices at the time of the general election for federal, state, and county officers. In addition, the amended bill requires a municipal office to be included in the municipal general election even though only one candidate has filed for the office and no one has declared as a write-in candidate within fourteen days following closing of filing for the office.

Under existing state law, municipalities set election dates by ordinance, and some hold elections for municipal offices in odd-numbered years. This bill requires elections of municipal officers to be conducted at the time of the general election for federal, state and county officers. The bill also requires municipalities to bear the cost of the election on a pro-rata basis as determined by the authority conducting the election.

Currently, a municipality does not have to hold a general election for an office if fourteen days have elapsed since filing for the office closed, only one person filed, and no one has declared his or her candidacy as a write-in candidate. In this event, the one candidate who filed is deemed

elected. This bill eliminates that authority, thereby requiring municipalities to hold an election for the office.

**Election Commission.** The commission indicates this bill will increase the length of the general election ballot and require two voter registration lists. Additional poll managers and voting machines would be needed, but the cost increases will be borne by the municipalities. Therefore, this bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-three county governments and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. The MASC indicates the requirement for municipalities to hold a general election when one is not currently required by law would cost between \$1,500 and \$149,000 per election. None of the local government representatives estimated the expenditure impact associated with consolidating municipal elections with federal, state, and county elections in November of even-numbered years.

Because data is not available to estimate the effect of consolidating municipal elections with other elections, the expenditure impact of this bill on local government is undetermined.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director