



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0142 Introduced on January 8, 2019
Author: Scott
Subject: Voting; Establishing Early Voting Procedures
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Miller
Impact Date: March 11, 2019

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will increase the General Fund expenditures of the State Election Commission (SEC) by \$1,244,585 beginning in FY 2019-20, to reimburse counties for certain costs associated with establishing early voting centers. However, this expenditure impact may change once the new voting system is implemented.

Additionally, this bill will increase local expenditures by \$1,244,585 beginning in FY 2019-20, which will be reimbursed by SEC, plus an additional undetermined amount to establish early voting centers. Therefore, this bill will have a net undetermined expenditure impact for counties.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 8, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill requires that each county board of registration and elections establish at least one and no more than three early voting centers for all elections. A county board of registration and election may authorize an additional two early voting centers if, after holding a public hearing, the board determines there is a need for additional centers. The early voting period begins ten days before the election and ends three days prior. For statewide primaries and general elections, the early voting centers must be open for two Saturdays during the early voting period and for all elections the centers may not operate on Sunday.

The State Election Commission (SEC) will reimburse counties for poll managers and polling location technicians, 50 percent of the cost of ballots, and rent for primary elections for the early voting centers. SEC anticipates the total counties expenses to be as follows:

Poll managers and polling location technicians	\$422,550
Ballots	\$764,635
Rent	\$57,400
Total Expense	\$1,244,585

SEC anticipates reimbursing counties the total of \$1,244,585. However, the costs may change once the new voting system is in place. Therefore, this bill will increase the General Fund expenditures by \$1,244,585 beginning in FY 2019-20.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill requires that each county board of registration and elections establish at least one and no more than three early voting centers for all elections. As discussed above, SEC anticipates the cost for poll managers and polling location technicians, 50 percent of the cost of ballots, and rent for primary elections for all counties will total approximately \$1,244,585. This total will be reimbursed by SEC through the General Fund. Therefore, the net local expenditure for these items is \$0. However, counties may incur additional costs as stated below.

In addition to the costs reimbursed by the SEC, there may be some additional costs to counties. These potential expenses include 50 percent of the cost of ballots, rent for the general elections, any moving costs, and supplies, among other items needed for early voting centers. As these costs will vary greatly from county to county and will depend on the individual needs of each county, the local expenditure impact is undetermined.

Local Revenue

This bill requires that each county board of registration and elections establish at least one and no more than three early voting centers for all elections. As discussed above, SEC anticipates the cost for poll managers and polling location technicians, 50 percent of the cost of ballots, and rent for primary elections for all counties will total \$1,244,585. This total will be reimbursed by SEC through the General Fund. Therefore, the net local revenue for these items is \$0.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director