



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0182 Introduced on January 8, 2019
Author: McElveen
Subject: Voting Machines
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Miller
Impact Date: January 30, 2019

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have a non-recurring expenditure impact of \$60,000,000 in FY 2019-20 to the General Fund to purchase a new statewide voting system and have it in service by the 2020 election. The South Carolina Election Commission (SEC) has submitted a budget request to cover the \$60,000,000 expenditure. If the budget request is granted, this bill will have no additional fiscal impact to the General Fund.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 8, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill requires voting machines that are designed to allow a direct vote on the machine by manual touch of a screen, wheel, or other device to be in service no later than the 2020 presidential preference primaries. Additionally, these machines must be able to produce a paper recording of all votes cast by each elector in an election. The SEC anticipates purchasing a new statewide voting system and having it in service by the 2020 election will cost \$60,000,000.

The current statewide voting system was implemented in 2004/2005 with a life expectancy of 12 to 15 years. Initially, the SEC planned to refresh the system and implement a new system for the 2022 election. However, there were concerns that Congress would require states to replace paperless voting systems before the 2020 election cycle. Therefore, the SEC has submitted a \$60,000,000 budget request to implement a new voting system that would replace the current system. This bill will have a non-recurring impact of \$60,000,000 on General Funds in FY 2019-20 to implement a new voting system. If the budget request is granted, this bill will have no additional impact.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank A. Rainwater".

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director