



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	S. 0389	Introduced on January 22, 2019
Author:	Rice	
Subject:	Voter Registration	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Miller	
Impact Date:	March 10, 2020	Updated for Additional Agency Response

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will result in an increase in non-recurring General Fund expenditures totaling \$2,805,000 in FY 2020-21 for the South Carolina Election Commission (SEC) because SEC anticipates needing to reprogram its internal statewide voter registration system. This update will include \$200,000 to update the voter registration election management system software, \$60,000 for voter registration application and form updates, \$1,000,000 for voter education, \$45,000 to update the poll manager handbook, and online training, and \$1,500,000 for statewide mailings to notify voters of the change.

The local expenditure impact of this bill is anticipated to be managed within existing budgets as most local presidential primary election expenditures are reimbursed by SEC.

The expenditure impact of this bill has been updated, following a response by SEC.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response on March 10, 2020

Introduced on January 22, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill allows only those electors who are registered as a member of a certain political party to vote in a partisan primary election or partisan advisory referendum of the certified political party with which the elector is registered. SEC will assist counties with registering electors and creating and maintaining a list of registered electors. Electors will be allowed to register prior to partisan primary elections conducted before June 2020. Parts of the bill allow registration prior to January 1, 2020. Timing for registration will depend on the enactment date of the bill. SEC stated it will have to update its internal statewide voter registration system to incorporate the certification of political parties for electors. This update will include \$200,000 to update the voter registration election management system software, \$60,000 for voter registration application and form updates, \$1,000,000 for voter education, \$45,000 to update the poll manager handbook, and online training, and \$1,500,000 for statewide mailings to notify voters of the change. The total cost of all of these updates is \$2,805,000. Therefore, this bill will increase non-recurring General Fund expenditures by \$2,805,000 in FY 2020-21.

The expenditure impact of this bill has been updated, following a response by SEC.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill allows only those electors who are registered as a member of a certain political party to vote in a partisan primary election or partisan advisory referendum of the certified political party with which the elector is registered. SEC will assist counties with registering electors and creating and maintaining a list of registered electors. Because SEC will be assisting counties and reimbursing most election costs, we anticipate a minimal expenditure impact for local county boards of registration and elections that can be managed within existing budgets.

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on January 22, 2019**State Expenditure**

This bill allows only those electors who are registered as a member of a certain political party to vote in a partisan primary election or partisan advisory referendum of the certified political party with which the elector is registered. SEC will assist counties with registering electors and creating and maintaining a list of registered electors. Electors will be allowed to register prior to partisan primary elections conducted before June 2020. Parts of the bill allow registration prior to January 1, 2020. Timing for registration will depend on the enactment date of the bill. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from SEC.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill allows only those electors who are registered as a member of a certain political party to vote in a partisan primary election or partisan advisory referendum of the certified political party with which the elector is registered. SEC will assist counties with registering electors and creating and maintaining a list of registered electors. Because SEC will be assisting counties, we anticipate a minimal expenditure impact for local county boards of registration and elections that can be managed within existing budgets. However, this may change dependent upon the response from SEC.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director