



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 4150	Introduced on April 6, 2021
Author:	Newton	
Subject:	Elections – In-Person Absentee and Mail-In Absentee Voting	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Miller	
Impact Date:	April 16, 2021	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have an \$845,500 General Fund expenditure impact in FY 2021-22, including a recurring impact of \$770,500 for poll manager pay reimbursement and a non-recurring impact of \$75,000 to update voter education material and the statewide Voter Registration and Election Management System (VERMS).

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on April 6, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill allows for in-person absentee voting for 14 days prior to a general election conducted pursuant to §7-13-10 and specifies the number of locations that must be open for this voting. Currently, absentee ballots may be submitted in person at the county board of voter registration and elections or an extension office. This bill increases the number of absentee voting locations prior to a general election. The State Election Commission estimates it will cost \$770,500 for each election. Even though §7-13-10 specifies general elections are to be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year, the Election Commission considered the primaries to be an extension of a general election, resulting in the need to staff the in-person absentee voting locations each fiscal year. Therefore, this bill will result in an increase of General Fund expenditures of \$770,500 beginning in FY 2021-22 to reimburse counties the cost of manning the absentee voting locations for the required 14 days prior to a general election.

Additionally, this bill modifies who qualifies to vote absentee. Currently, there are 18 allowable reasons to vote absentee. This bill eliminates or modifies 8 of these allowable excuses. The Election Commission states that voter education material will need to be updated, coding changes to the absentee application in VERMS will be needed. The estimated cost of these changes is \$75,000. Therefore, this bill will result in a non-recurring General Fund expenditure of \$75,000 in FY 2021-22.

Also, this bill repeals those code sections pertaining to protests, contests, and hearings for county officers and less than county officers. With the repeal of this language, it is unclear how the protest or contest for county officers and less than county officers will be handled.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director