~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 24, 2021

**H. 3264**

Introduced by Reps. Fry, Huggins, Davis, B. Newton, G.R. Smith, Morgan, Burns, Erickson, Bennett, Thayer, Taylor, Bryant, Elliott, Willis, Felder, Long, McGarry, Haddon, Hewitt, Bailey, M.M. Smith, J.E. Johnson, Bradley, Crawford and King

S. Printed 3/24/21--S.

Read the first time February 25, 2021.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3264) to amend Section 7‑9‑70, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the required notices of county conventions, so as to eliminate the requirement, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

LUKE A. RANKIN for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Local Expenditure**

This bill strikes the language that requires a public notice be printed in a local newspaper for all county conventions for reorganization and reconvened county conventions to nominate candidates. Currently, a notice for both such conventions must be published at least once a week for two weeks within the three weeks prior to the convention in a newspaper with general circulation within the county. This bill eliminates this publication requirement. This bill may result in a minimal savings to political parties as they will no longer have to pay any publication fee for the printed notice. This bill will result in no expenditure impact to local governing entities as the as the cost of publishing the public notice in a local newspaper is currently the responsibility of the political parties.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑9‑70, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE REQUIRED NOTICES OF COUNTY CONVENTIONS, SO AS TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT A COUNTY COMMITTEE PUBLISH CERTAIN NOTICES REGARDING COUNTY CONVENTIONS IN A NEWSPAPER HAVING GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 7‑9‑70 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7‑9‑70. A county convention must be held during a twelve‑month period ending March thirty‑first of each general election year during a month determined by the state committee as provided in Section 7‑9‑100. The county committee shall set the date, time, and location during the month designated by the state committee for the county convention to be held. The date set by the county committee for the county convention must be at least two weeks before the state convention. When a month in a nongeneral election year is chosen for the county convention, it must be held for the purpose of reorganization only. The date, time, and location that the county convention must be reconvened during the general election year to nominate candidates for public office to be filled in the general election must be set by county committee. ~~Notices, both for the convention to be held for reorganization and for the reconvened convention to nominate candidates, must be published by the county committee, once a week for two consecutive weeks, not more than three nor less than two weeks, before the day in a newspaper having general circulation in the county.~~”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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