



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

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. 3557	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Candidate Filing	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	March 5, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires all candidates from each political party to pay a filing fee and allows political parties to charge a certification fee to all candidates. This bill also changes the filing period for a candidate in a general election and the filing of party pledges for a candidate in a general election from March 30th to March 25th.

The State Election Commission anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no state expenditure impact.

This bill may result in a change in the total amount of candidate filing fees collected by the State Election Commission. Candidate filing fees are distributed to the commission's Other Funds for the purpose of conducting elections. This bill will require candidates from the two major parties and third-party candidates to pay a filing fee. Candidates from the two major parties currently pay a fee. Additionally, the majority of candidates are either from the two major parties or are non-partisan, who are not required to pay a filing fee. Therefore, this bill may result in a change to Other Funds revenue due to the new filing fees collected from third-party candidates by the State Election Commission.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) to determine the potential local expenditure impact of this bill. We received responses from Charleston County, Dorchester County, and MASC. Dorchester County anticipates this bill will have no expenditure impact. Additionally, Charleston County anticipates this bill may result in an expenditure savings of approximately \$400 as the change in the filing period may reduce the need for overtime pay for county election workers. MASC also anticipates this bill will have no fiscal impact for municipalities.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill requires all candidates from each political party to pay a filing fee and allows political parties to charge a certification fee to all candidates. This bill also changes the filing period for a

candidate in a general election and the filing of party pledges for a candidate in a general election from March 30th to March 25th.

The State Election Commission anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no state expenditure impact.

State Revenue

This bill may result in a change in the total amount of candidate filing fees collected by the State Election Commission. Candidate filing fees are distributed to the commission's Other Funds for the purpose of conducting elections. This bill will require candidates from the two major parties and third-party candidates to pay a filing fee. Candidates from the two major parties currently pay a fee. Additionally, the majority of candidates are either from the two major parties or are non-partisan, who are not required to pay a filing fee. Therefore, this bill may result in a change to Other Funds revenue due to the new filing fees collected from third-party candidates by the State Election Commission.

Local Expenditure

This bill may result in a change in the total amount of candidate filing fees collected by the State Election Commission. Candidate filing fees are distributed to the department's Other Funds for the purpose of conducting elections. This bill will require candidates from the two major parties and third-party candidates to pay a filing fee. Candidates from the two major parties currently pay a fee. Additionally, the majority of candidates are either from the two major parties or are non-partisan, who are not required to pay a filing fee under this bill. Therefore, this bill may result in a change to Other Funds revenue due to the new filing fees collected from third-parties by the State Election Commission.

RFA contacted all counties and MASC to determine the potential local expenditure impact of this bill. We received responses from Charleston County, Dorchester County, and MASC. Dorchester County anticipates this bill will have no expenditure impact. Additionally, Charleston County anticipates this bill may result in an expenditure savings of approximately \$400 as the change in the filing period may reduce the need for overtime pay for county election workers. MASC also anticipates this bill will have no fiscal impact for municipalities.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director