



# 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.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 3643 Introduced on January 14, 2025  
**Subject:** Voter Registration, Party Affiliation  
**Requestor:** House Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Welsh  
**Impact Date:** January 20, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires voters to be registered with a political party or as unaffiliated at least forty-five days before a party's primary in order to participate and prohibits cross-party voting. This bill requires all voter registration forms and records to capture party affiliation and provides that unaffiliated voters who participate in a primary automatically become affiliated with that party. This bill also shortens the filing and party pledge deadlines by five days, requires all candidates from each political party to pay a filing fee beginning July 1, 2026, and allows parties to charge a party certification fee of up to \$100. Further, this bill requires that only candidates who have voted in two of the party's last three statewide primaries and been affiliated with the party for at least forty-five days may appear on the ballot for that party's partisan primary, while allowing party committees to waive or modify this requirement. This bill also directs the South Carolina Election Commission (Elections) to establish a voter education program to notify voters of these changes.

Elections 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.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) also contacted all counties to determine the local expenditure impact of this bill. Responses received from the counties of Horry and Kershaw indicate the local expenditure impact on these counties is expected to be minimal and managed within current resources.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on January 14, 2025

#### State Expenditure

This bill requires voters to be registered with a political party or as unaffiliated at least forty-five days before a party's primary in order to participate and prohibits cross-party voting. This bill requires all voter registration forms and records to capture party affiliation and provides that unaffiliated voters who participate in a primary automatically become affiliated with that party. This bill also shortens the filing and party pledge deadlines by five days, requires all candidates from each political party to pay a filing fee beginning July 1, 2026, and allows parties to charge a party certification fee of up to \$100. Further, this bill requires that only candidates who have

voted in two of the party's last three statewide primaries and been affiliated with the party for at least forty-five days may appear on the ballot for that party's partisan primary, while allowing party committees to waive or modify this requirement. This bill also directs the Elections to establish a voter education program to notify voters of these changes.

Elections 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**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

This bill limits partisan primary voting to voters registered with the official political party.

RFA also contacted all counties to determine the local expenditure impact of this bill. Responses received from the counties of Horry and Kershaw indicate the local expenditure impact on these counties is expected to be minimal and managed within current resources.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director