



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:	S. 0038	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Special Elections	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	January 27, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends existing provisions related to the process of holding special elections to fill vacancies in office. The bill adjusts the filing period for candidates in both partisan and non-partisan special elections to seven days. This bill also requires special elections to be held only on specific enumerated dates. Currently, special elections are conducted a prescribed number of weeks following the occurrence of a vacancy.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for the State Election Commission as the agency anticipates being able to manage the additional responsibilities due to this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) and all counties to determine the local expenditure impact of this bill. Based on the responses received, it is anticipated that standardizing dates for special elections will be managed by local jurisdictions within current appropriations and may result in local expenditure savings from a reduction in the total number of elections held throughout the year.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill amends existing provisions related to the process of holding special elections to fill vacancies in office. The bill adjusts the filing period for candidates in both partisan and non-partisan special elections to seven days. This bill also requires special elections to be held only on specific enumerated dates. Currently, special elections are conducted on a schedule a prescribed number of weeks following the occurrence of a vacancy.

The State Election Commission can manage the additional responsibilities due to this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

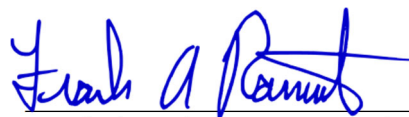
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RFA contacted MASC to determine the local expenditure impact for municipalities. MASC anticipates the bill will not cause an increase or reduction in costs compared to current law as special election are standalone, unanticipated events that can be managed within current appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact for municipalities.

RFA also contacted all counties to determine the local expenditure impact for counties. The counties of Beaufort, Florence, Horry, and Kershaw provided a response. All respondents anticipate this bill may result in savings by standardizing the timing of special elections, and thereby potentially reducing the total number of elections held. Therefore, this bill may result in local expenditure savings.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director