



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. 0128	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Voter Registration	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	January 21, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires applicants for voter registration to provide evidence of citizenship. This bill also specifies certain documents that may be accepted as proof and requires counties to retain records of documents provided by registrants. This bill further requires county boards of voter registration and elections to identify all currently registered voters who have not provided citizenship documentation, requires the Attorney General to verify those individuals' citizenship using state and federal databases, and mandates a statewide report on the Attorney General's findings. This bill takes effect upon signing of the Governor. However, the bill specifies that counties must deliver a list of individuals who are registered to vote but have not provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship to the Attorney General on or before October 31, 2025, and that the Attorney General must submit its report on or before March 1, 2026. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) assumes these dates will be updated.

The South Carolina Election Commission (Elections) anticipates this bill will require updates to its Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS) and voter registration forms. Election's IT vendor, Kopis, estimates system changes needed to maintain and administer citizenship data would represent about 400 hours of work and a nonrecurring expense of \$46,000. Elections anticipates managing this impact within existing appropriations. However, Elections notes that it is unclear how voters will be notified of these changes and the expenditure impact of this bill will increase significantly if mailed notices are required.

This bill requires the Attorney General to verify the citizenship of every individual who is registered to vote but has not provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship. The Office of the Attorney General anticipates implementation of the bill will require 3.0 FTEs at the program coordinator level with salary and fringe totaling an estimated \$284,328. The agency will request an increase in General Fund appropriations for this expense.

RFA also contacted all counties to determine the local expenditure impact of this bill. Responses received from the counties of Beaufort and Horry 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 applicants for voter registration to provide evidence of citizenship. This bill also specifies certain documents that may be accepted as proof and requires counties to retain records of documents provided by registrants. This bill further requires county boards of voter registration and elections to identify all currently registered voters who have not provided citizenship documentation, requires the Attorney General to verify those individuals' citizenship using state and federal databases, and mandates a statewide report on the Attorney General's findings. This bill takes effect upon signing of the Governor. However, the bill specifies that counties must deliver a list of individuals who are registered to vote but have not provided satisfactory evidence of citizenship to the Attorney General on or before October 31, 2025, and that the Attorney General must submit its report on or before March 1, 2026. RFA assumes these dates will be updated.

Elections anticipates this bill will require updates to VREMS and voter registration forms. Election's IT vendor, Kopis, estimates system changes needed to maintain and administer citizenship data would represent about 400 hours of work and a nonrecurring expense of \$46,000. Elections anticipates managing this impact within existing appropriations. However, Elections notes that it is unclear how voters will be notified of these changes and the expenditure impact of this bill will increase significantly if mailed notices are required.

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State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

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Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director