



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0351
 Author: Bright
 Requestor: Senate Judiciary
 Date: March 26, 2015
 Subject: Voter Registration
 RFA Analyst(s): Gardner and Wren

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$2,805,000	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	\$2,387,000	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

Senate Bill 351 would increase non-recurring General Fund expenditures by \$2,805,000 in FY 2015-16. This bill also would have an expenditure impact of \$2,387,000 on county governments in FY 2015-16.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This bill pertains to voter registration and adds Section 7-5-115 to prohibit a person from voting in a partisan election unless he or she is registered as a member of that party. It also requires the State Election Commission to maintain a list of registered electors by party affiliation and to notify all qualified electors of the new partisan primary voting procedures. Further, the bill amends Section 7-5-170 to require voter registration applicants to provide political party affiliation, if any, on the registration form, and it amends section 7-9-20 to require registration as a member of a certified political party and to provide a procedure for changing party affiliation.

The State Election Commission indicates Senate Bill 351 would increase non-recurring General Funds by \$2,805,000. The non-recurring funds would be necessary for changes to the statewide voter registration system, the reprinting of poll manager handbooks, applications, and forms, and changes to the online training program.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted all forty-six county governments regarding the expenditure impact of this bill and received six responses.

Calhoun County. Calhoun County indicates this bill would have an expenditure impact of \$1,120 for additional training costs.

Florence County. Florence County indicates this bill would have an expenditure impact of approximately \$150,000 for additional labor costs.

Kershaw County. Kershaw County indicates this bill would have an expenditure impact of \$29,760 for personnel and training costs.

Lexington County. Lexington County indicates this bill would have an expenditure impact of \$81,500 for costs incurred with notifying voters of changes associated with this bill.

Saluda County. Saluda County indicates the impact of this bill will depend upon whether the State Election Commission notifies voters of this change or if the county will be left to absorb the cost.

York County. York County indicates this bill would have an expenditure impact of \$100,000 for personnel and mailing costs.

Based on information received from the responding counties and prorating for a statewide county impact, we estimate this bill would have an expenditure impact of \$2,387,000 on county governments in FY 2015-16.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director