

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3176**

(Doc. No. 22459zw13.docx)

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TO: The Honorable F. Gregory “Greg” Dellaney, Jr., Chairperson, House Judiciary Committee  
FROM: State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board  
ANALYSTS: K. Earle Powell and Rodney P. Grizzle  
DATE: April 9, 2013 SBD: 2013051

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AUTHOR: Representative Clemmons PRIMARY CODE CITE: 7-13-25  
SUBJECT: Voting

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

House Bill 3176 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, to provide for various election law revisions. The Bill requires that each county board of registrations must establish one early voting center. The early voting period begins nine days before an election and ends the day prior to an election exclusive of Sundays. While the county board of registration and elections determines the hours of operation, the legislation requires the center to be open for two Saturdays within the early voting period for statewide primaries and general elections, and the legislation provides minimum hours of operation each day. The early voting center must close at 5:00 p.m. on the final day of early voting, the Monday immediately preceding election day. The Bill requires a sign to be posted in an early voting center informing the public that voting more than once is misdemeanor, and upon conviction, a person must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than three years. With the establishment of an early voting period, the Bill revises the categories in which a qualified must be permitted to vote by absentee ballot. The Bill provides that an entity authorized by law to conduct an election at which qualified electors are allowed to cast a ballot must do so on one of four dates. The dates on which an election event may be held are: (1) the third Tuesday in March; (2) the third Tuesday in June; (3) the third Tuesday in September; or (4) the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

State Election Commission

The State Election Commission estimates a total fiscal impact of \$807,020 to the State General Fund with the adoption of this Bill. The Commission estimates a recurring cost of \$307,020 for reimbursement to the counties for poll workers used in the early voting process for statewide elections. In addition, the Commission estimates \$500,000 in non-recurring costs for voter education and training for county election officials and workers.

Other Agencies

The Judicial Department and the Department of Corrections indicate that this Bill will have no fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State, nor on Federal and/or Other Funds.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

The amount provided in this impact does not include items that will be paid for by the counties. Counties have indicated to the State Election Commission that they will need \$366,000 for additional machines used for voters with disabilities required by the Help America Vote Act. Counties also indicated they will need additional laptops, Ivotronic machines, printers, telephones, scanners, air cards and other miscellaneous items. However, the amounts for these items are not determinable at this time.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Hart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenda Hart  
Assistant Director, State Budget Division