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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED -- NOT PRINTED

May 11, 2011

**H. 3003**

Introduced by Reps. Clemmons, Harrell, Lucas, Bingham, Harrison, Cooper, Owens, Sandifer, Allison, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Bowen, Cole, Crawford, Daning, Delleney, Forrester, Frye, Gambrell, Hamilton, Hardwick, Hiott, Horne, Huggins, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Merrill, V.S. Moss, Norman, Parker, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, Sottile, Stringer, Toole, Umphlett, Viers, White, Crosby, Thayer, Simrill, Ryan, McCoy, Murphy, Atwater, Henderson, Quinn, Tallon, Patrick, J.R. Smith, Hixon, Taylor, Young, Bedingfield, Corbin, Pitts, Chumley, Spires, Pope, Bikas, Pinson, D.C. Moss, Erickson, Willis, Brady, Herbkersman, Nanney, Brannon and Whitmire

S. Printed 2/23/11--S.

Read the first time January 27, 2011.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 7‑1‑25 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO LIST FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR DOMICILE; TO AMEND SECTION 7‑5‑125, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT AN ELECTOR MAY OBTAIN A DUPLICATE REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION; TO AMEND SECTION 7‑5‑230, RELATING TO ELECTION LAWS, SO AS TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES; TO ADD SECTION 7‑5‑675, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION WILL IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO ISSUE VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS WITH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE VOTER; TO AMEND SECTION 7‑13‑710 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, SO AS TO REQUIRE PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE, PERMITTING FOR PROVISIONAL BALLOTS IF THE IDENTIFICATION CANNOT BE PRODUCED, AND TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR A RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO BEING PHOTOGRAPHED; TO AMEND SECTION 56‑1‑3350, SO AS TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO PROVIDE FREE IDENTIFICATION CARDS UPON REQUEST FOR PERSONS AGED SEVENTEEN YEARS OR OLDER; TO PROVIDE FOR A VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS BILL; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION CREATE A LIST OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER’S LICENSE OR OTHER FORM OF IDENTIFICATION CONTAINING A PHOTOGRAPH ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 7‑1‑25 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7-1-25. (A) A person’s residence is his domicile. ‘Domicile’ means a person’s fixed home where he has an intention of returning when he is absent. A person has only one domicile.

(B) For voting purposes, a person has changed his domicile if he (1) has abandoned his prior home and (2) has established a new home, has a present intention to make that place his home, and has no present intention to leave that place.

(C) For voting purposes, a spouse may establish a separate domicile.

(D) For voting purposes*,* factors to consider in determining a person’s intention regarding his domicile include, but are not limited to:

(1) a voter’s address reported on income tax returns;

(2) a voter’s real estate interests, including the address for which the legal residence tax assessment ratio is claimed pursuant to Section 12‑43‑220(C);

(3) a voter’s physical mailing address;

(4) a voter’s address on driver’s license or other identification issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;

(5) a voter’s address on legal and financial documents;

(6) a voter’s address utilized for educational purposes, such as public school assignment and determination of tuition at institutions of higher education;

(7) a voter’s address on an automobile registration;

(8) a voter’s address utilized for membership in clubs and organizations;

(9) the location of a voter’s personal property;

(10) residence of a voter’s parents, spouse, and children; and

(11) whether a voter temporarily relocated due to medical care for the voter or for a member of the voter’s immediate family.”

SECTION 2. Section 7‑5‑125 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7-5-125. (A) Any person who applies for registration to vote and is found to be qualified by the county board of registration to whom application is made must be issued a written notification of registration. This notification must be on a form prescribed and provided by the State Election Commission.

(B) If an elector loses or defaces his registration notification, he may obtain a duplicate notification from his county board of registration upon request in person, or by telephone or mail.”

SECTION 3. Section 7‑5‑230 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 7-5-230. (A) The boards of registration to be appointed under Section 7‑5‑10 shall be the judges of the legal qualifications of all applicants for registration. The board is empowered to require proof of these qualifications as it considers necessary.

Once a person is registered, challenges of the qualifications of any elector, except for challenges issued at the polls pursuant to Sections 7‑13‑810, 7‑13‑820, and 7‑15‑420 must be made in writing to the board of registration in the county of registration. The board must, within ten days following the challenge and after first giving notice to the elector and the challenger, hold a hearing, accept evidence, and rule upon whether the elector meets or fails to meet the qualifications set forth in Section 7‑5‑120.

(B) When a challenge is made regarding the residence or domicile of an elector, the board ~~may~~ must consider the provisions of Section 7‑1‑25(D) ~~following proof to establish residence including, but not limited to, income tax returns; real estate interests; mailing address; address on driver’s license; official papers and documents requiring the statement of residence address; automobile registration; checking and savings accounts; past voting record; membership in clubs and organizations; location of personal property; and the elector’s statements as to his intent~~.

(C) Any person denied registration or restoration of his name on the registration books shall have the right of appeal from the decision of the board of registration denying him registration or such restoration to the court of common pleas of the county or any judge thereof and subsequently to the Supreme Court.”

SECTION 4. Article 7, Chapter 5, Title 7 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 7‑5‑675. The State Elections Commission shall implement a system in order to issue voter registration cards with a photograph of the elector. This voter registration card may be used for voting purposes only.”

SECTION 5. Section 7‑13‑710 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 459 of 1996, is further amended to read:

“Section 7‑13‑710. (A) When ~~any~~ a person presents himself to vote, he shall produce ~~his~~ a valid and current:

(1) South Carolina driver’s license; or

(2) other form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles~~, if he is not licensed to drive, or the written notification of registration provided for by Sections 7‑5‑125 and 7‑5‑180 if the notification has been signed by the elector.~~; or

(3) passport; or

(4) military identification containing a photograph issued by the federal government; or

(5) South Carolina voter registration card containing a photograph of the voter pursuant to Section 7‑5‑675.

~~If the elector loses or defaces his registration notification, he may obtain a duplicate notification from his county board of registration upon request in person, or by telephone or mail.~~

(B) After presentation of the required identification described in subsection (A), ~~his~~ the elector’s name must be checked by one of the managers on the margin of the page opposite his name upon the registration books, or copy of the books, furnished by the board of registration. One of the managers also shall compare the photograph contained on the required identification with the person presenting himself to vote. The manager shall verify that the photograph is that of the person seeking to vote. The managers shall keep a poll list which must contain one column headed ‘Names of Voters’. Before ~~any~~ a ballot is delivered to a voter, the voter shall sign his name on the poll list, which must be furnished to the appropriate election officials by the State Election Commission. At the top of each page the voter’s oath appropriate to the election must be printed. The signing of the poll list or the marking of the poll list is considered to be an affirmation of the oath by the voter. One of the managers shall compare the signature on the poll list with the signature on the voter’s driver’s license, registration notification, or other identification and may require further identification of the voter and proof of his right to vote under this title as he considers necessary. If the voter is unable to write or if the voter is prevented from signing by physical handicap, he may sign his name to the poll list by mark with the assistance of one of the managers.

(C)(1) If the elector cannot produce the identification as required in subsection (A), he may cast a provisional ballot that is counted only if the elector brings a valid and current photo identification to the county board of registration and elections before certification of the election by the county board of canvassers.

(2) If the manager disputes that the photograph contained on the required identification is the person presenting himself to vote, the elector may cast a provisional ballot. A determination of that provisional ballot must be made in accordance with Section 7‑13‑830.

(D)(1)(a) If an elector does not produce a valid and current photograph identification due to a religious objection to being photographed, he may complete an affidavit under penalty of perjury at the polling place and affirm that the elector: (i) is the same individual who personally appeared at the polling place; (ii) cast the provisional ballot on election day; and (iii) has a religious objection to being photographed. Upon completion of the affidavit, the elector may cast a provisional ballot. The affidavit must be submitted with the provisional ballot envelope and be filed with the county board of registration and elections before certification of the election by the county board of canvassers.

(b) If an elector does not produce a valid and current photograph identification because the elector suffers from a reasonable impediment that prevents the elector from obtaining photograph identification, he may complete an affidavit under the penalty of perjury at the pollingplace and affirm that the elector: (i) is the same individual who personally appeared at the polling place; (ii) cast the provisional ballot on election day; and (iii) the elector suffers from a reasonable impediment that prevents him from obtaining photograph identification. The elector also shall list the impediment, unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal law. Upon completion of the affidavit, the elector may cast a provisional ballot. The affidavit must be submitted with the provisional ballot envelope and be filed with the county board of registration and elections before certification of the election by the county board of canvassers.

(2) If the county board of registration and elections determines that the voter was challenged only for the inability to provide proof of identification and the required affidavit is submitted, the county board of registration and elections shall find that the provisional ballot is valid unless the board has grounds to believe the affidavit is false.

(3) If the county board of registration and elections determines that the voter has been challenged for a cause other than the inability to provide proof of identification as required by subsection (A), the county board of registration and elections shall:

(a) note on the envelope containing the provisional ballot that the voter complied with the proof of identification requirement; and

(b) proceed to determine the validity of the remaining challenges before ruling on the validity of the provisional ballot.”

(E) The purpose of the identification required pursuant to subsection (A) is to confirm the person presenting himself to vote is the elector on the poll list. Any address listed on the identification is not determinative of an elector’s domicile for the purpose of voting. An elector’s domicile for the purpose of voting is determined pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-1-25.

SECTION 6. “Section 56‑1‑3350. (A) Upon application by a person ~~ten~~ five years of age or older who is a resident of South Carolina, the department shall issue a special identification card as long as:

(1) the application is made on a form approved and furnished by the department; and

(2) the applicant presents to the person issuing the identification card a birth certificate or other evidence acceptable to the department of his name and date of birth.

(B)(1) The fee for the issuance of the special identification card is five dollars~~, and~~ for a person between the ages of five and sixteen years.

(2) An identification card must be free to a person aged seventeen years or older.

(C) The identification card expires five years from the date of issuance. ~~The renewal fee is also five dollars. Issuance and renewal fees are waived for indigent persons who are mentally ill, mentally retarded, homeless, or who are on public assistance as the sole source of income. As used in this section ‘indigent’ means a person who is qualified for legal assistance which is paid for with public funds. For purposes of this section, a homeless person is an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:~~

~~(a)~~ ~~a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including congregated shelters and transitional housing;~~

~~(b)~~ ~~an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or~~

~~(c)~~ ~~a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.~~

~~The term does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an act of Congress. Annually, the director of a facility which provides care or shelter to homeless persons must certify this fact to the department. The department must maintain a list of facilities which are approved by the department, and only letters from the directors of these approved facilities are considered to comply with the provisions of this section. To have the issuance or renewal fee waived for an identification card, a homeless person must present a letter to the department from the director of a facility that provides care or shelter to homeless persons certifying that the person named in the letter is homeless. The letter may not be older than thirty days.~~

(D) Special identification cards issued to persons under the age of twenty‑one must be marked, stamped, or printed to readily indicate that the person to whom the card is issued is under the age of twenty‑one.

(E) The fees collected pursuant to this section must be credited to the Department of Transportation State Non‑Federal Aid Highway Fund ~~as provided in the following schedule based on the actual date of receipt by the Department of Motor Vehicles:~~

~~Fees and Penalties~~ ~~General Fund~~ ~~Department of~~

~~Collected After~~ ~~of the State~~ ~~Transportation~~

~~State Non‑Federal~~

~~Aid Highway Fund~~

~~June 30, 2005~~ ~~60 percent~~ ~~40 percent~~

~~June 30, 2006~~ ~~20 percent~~ ~~80 percent~~

~~June 30, 2007~~ ~~0 percent~~ ~~100 percent~~.”

SECTION 7. The State Elections Commission must establish an aggressive voter education program concerning the provisions contained in this legislation. The State Elections Commission must educate the public as follows:

(1) Post information concerning changes contained in this legislation in a conspicuous location at each county board of registration and elections, each satellite office, the State Elections Commission office, and their respective websites.

(2) Train poll managers and poll workers at their mandatory training sessions to answer questions by electors concerning the changes in this legislation.

(3) Require documentation describing the changes in this legislation to be disseminated by poll managers and poll workers at every election held following preclearance by the United States Department of Justice or approval by a declaratory judgment issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, whichever occurs first.

(4) Coordinate with each county board of registration and elections so that at least two seminars are conducted in each county prior to December 15, 2011.

(5) Coordinate with local and service organizations to provide for additional informational seminars at a local or statewide level.

(6) Place an advertisement describing the changes in this legislation in South Carolina newspapers of general circulation by no later than December 15, 2011.

(7) Coordinate with local media outlets to disseminate information concerning the changes in this legislation.

(8) Notify each registered elector who does not have a South Carolina issued driver’s license or identification card a notice of the provisions of this act by no later than December 1, 2011. This notice must include the requirements to vote absentee, early, or on election day and a description of voting by provisional ballot. It must also state the availability of a free South Carolina identification card pursuant to Section 56-1-3350.

In addition to the items above, the State Elections Commission may implement additional educational programs in its discretion.

SECTION 8. The State Election Commission is directed to create a list containing all registered voters of South Carolina who are otherwise qualified to vote but do not have a South Carolina driver’s license or other form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles as of December 1, 2011. The list must be made available to any registered voter upon request. The Department of Motor Vehicles must provide the list of persons with a South Carolina driver’s license or other form of identification containing a photograph issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles at no cost to the commission. The commission may charge a reasonable fee for the provision of the list in order to recover associated costs of producing the list.

SECTION 9. The General Assembly finds that all the provisions contained in this act relate to one subject as required by Article III, Section 17 of the South Carolina Constitution in that each provision relates directly to or in conjunction with other sections to the subject of election reform as stated in the title. The General Assembly further finds that a common purpose or relationship exists among the sections, representing a potential plurality but not disunity of topics, notwithstanding that reasonable minds might differ in identifying more than one topic contained in this act.

SECTION 10. Except for SECTION 4, the provisions of this act are effective upon approval by the Governor.

SECTION 11. SECTION 4 takes effect upon preclearance approval by the United States Department of Justice or approval by a declaratory judgment issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, whichever occurs first. However, the implementation of the procedures provided for in this SECTION is contingent upon the State Election Commission’s receipt of funds necessary to implement these provisions. Until the provisions of this SECTION are fully funded and executed, implementation of the provisions of this SECTION shall not prohibit the State Election Commission from issuing voter registration cards by the methods allowed prior to the implementation of this SECTION.

/s/Sen. Glenn F. McConnell /s/Rep. Alan D. Clemmons

/s/Sen. George E. Campsen III /s/Rep. James H. Merrill

Sen. John L. Scott, Jr. /s/Rep. James H. Lucas

On Part of the Senate. On Part of the House.

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