



**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.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 3444	Introduced on January 12, 2021
<b>Author:</b>	Lucas	
<b>Subject:</b>	State Election Commission	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Judiciary	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Miller	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	February 22, 2021	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will result in an increase of General Fund expenditures totaling \$819,200 in FY 2021-22, including a \$200,000 non-recurring General Fund expenditure for initial office set up and \$619,200 for office leasing, IT software and hardware licensing, personnel cost for 7 additional FTEs, and the cost of three new State Election Commission (SEC) members. This increase in General Fund expenditures will allow SEC to fully implement the responsibilities granted in this bill. Additionally, this bill will result in an increase in General Fund expenditures totaling \$619,200, annually beginning in FY 2022-23 to fully implement the responsibilities granted to SEC and cover the cost of three additional SEC members.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

##### **State Expenditure**

This bill restructures the State Election Commission (SEC) and takes effect upon approval of the Governor. The bill specifies that the commission will consist of eight members, four appointed by the Governor, two by the President of the Senate as recommended by the major political party and the largest minority political party, and two by the Speaker of the House as recommended by the major political party and the largest minority political party. The terms of each appointed member are outlined in the bill. Additionally, the terms of all member serving on the existing commission as of June 29, 2021, ends on June 30, 2021. Any member who has not served a full four-year term as of June 30, 2021, may be reappointed. The bill provides qualifications to be considered when appointing a member and a list of persons who may not be appointed, including, but not limited to, a member of the General Assembly, a family member or any member of the General Assembly, a family member of the Governor. The bill also specifies how and why a member may be removed from the commission. Currently, there are five members serving on the commission. This bill increases the number of members serving on the commission by three.

Currently, the agency's expenditures for five commission members totals \$12,000, or approximately \$2,400 per member. Therefore, General Fund expenditures will increase by approximately \$7,200 for the addition of three members.

Additionally, this bill gives the commission and the executive director the powers and duties to supervise the performance of county boards of elections and voter registration, as established pursuant to Article 1, Chapter 5 of Title 7, among other responsibilities. Currently, SEC may supervise county boards of elections and voter registrations. This bill elaborates on SEC responsibilities and authorities.

Based on SEC's interpretation of this bill, it anticipates the need for 7.0 additional FTEs in order to fully implement the required powers and duties as granted in this bill. SEC states it will need to hire the following:

- One Attorney III
- Two program coordinators n II (area representatives)
- Four program coordinator I (compliance auditors)

SEC expects the salaries, benefits, and employer contributions for these 7 FTEs will total \$472,000. Additionally, SEC anticipates an increase in General Fund expenditures of \$50,000, for IT software and hardware licensing, state vehicle maintenance and other miscellaneous costs and \$90,000 for additional office leasing, annually beginning in FY 2021-22. Further, SEC reports that the purchase of IT hardware, office equipment and furniture, and other one-time fees will result in a non-recurring General Fund expenditure totaling \$200,000 in FY 2021-22.

In summary, this bill will result in an increase of recurring General Fund expenditures totaling \$619,200 beginning in FY 2021-22. This includes cost to support 7 additional FTEs equaling \$472,000, miscellaneous maintenance costs equaling \$50,000, office leasing totaling \$90,000, and the cost of three additional board members totaling \$7,200. Further, this bill will result in a non-recurring General Fund expenditure of \$200,000 for the initial office set up for the 7 FTEs.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director