

South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors

Statement of Estimated State Revenue Impact

Date: January 18, 2011

Bill Number: S.B.1

Author: Senators Campsen, McConnell, Leatherman, Peeler, Shoopman, Rose, Cleary, Verdin, S. Martin, Massey, Fair and Davis

Committee Requesting Impact: Senate Judiciary

Bill Summary: A bill relating to reform of the South Carolina election laws by enacting the "South Carolina Election Reform Act"; to amend Section (§)7-13-710 of the 1976 Code so as to require photograph identification to vote, permitting for provisional ballots if the identification cannot be produced and provide an exception for a religious objection to being photographed; to amend §56-1-3350, so as to require the department of motor vehicles to provide free identification cards upon request; to amend §7-13-25, so as to provide for an early voting period beginning fifteen days before a statewide primary or general election and to provide for the hours and early voting location; to amend §7-3-20, so as to require the executive director of the state elections commission to maintain in the master file a separate designation for absentee and early voters in a general election; to amend §7-1-25, so as to list factors to consider for domicile; to amend §7-5-230, so as to reference revisions to §7-1-25; to add §7-5-675, so as to provide that the state election commission will issue voter registration cards with a photograph of the voter; to provide for a voter education program concerning the requirements of this bill.

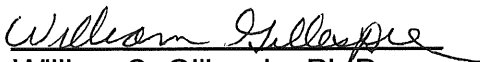
REVENUE IMPACT ^{1/}

This bill is expected to reduce Restricted Fund allocations to the State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund (NFH) within the Department of Transportation (DOT) by \$507,360 in FY 2011-12. The bill would have no impact on state General Fund revenue.

Explanation

Section 1 of this bill, the "South Carolina Election Reform Act," expands means of photo identification to verify a person's right to vote in this State to include a valid and current passport, military identification card (ID), an employee ID issued by either the federal government or by this State, or a South Carolina voter registration card pursuant to proposed §7-5-675 in Section 11 of the bill. These additional IDs would contain a photograph. Section 3 amends §56-1-3350 to provide there is no charge to issue or renew a photo identification card by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to anyone seventeen years of age or older. Section 18 further sets the effective date for this change as July 1, 2011. The current \$5 fee to issue or renew an ID remains applicable for a person between the ages of ten and sixteen years. An ID issued by DMV is valid for five years.

Currently, all photo ID card proceeds go to the restricted account of the NFH within the DOT. The projected revenue loss to issue an ID card at age seventeen or older at no fee would apply to collection reports for eleven months in FY 2011-12. Based on historical collections for this \$5 fee, we expect adoption of the bill would reduce funds allocated to the NFH within DOT by \$507,360 in FY 2011-12. Since no revenue from ID card fees goes to the state's General Fund, adoption of the bill would have no impact on General Fund revenue in FY2011-12. Language in Section 13 authorizes the State Election Commission to charge a reasonable fee to provide upon request a listing of those eligible voters as of December 1, 2001 that have no valid form of photo ID, but no fee amount is specified. Also, the timing to commence such a fee is dependent upon the earliest approval action by U.S. Department of Justice or U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Thus, the revenue yield to the commission cannot be accurately determined until both the fee and a prospective date to commence collections are set.


William C. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Chief Economist

Analyst: Di Biase

^{1/} This statement meets revenue impact requirements of Section 2-7-71 for a state impact by BEA, Section 2-7-76 for a local impact or Section 6-1-85(B) for an estimate of the shift in local property tax incidence by Office of Economic Research (OER).