

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.

S. 0351 Introduced on January 12, 2021 **Bill Number:**

Author: McLeod

Subject: Discharged Inmate

Senate Corrections and Penology Requestor:

Gardner and Griffith RFA Analyst(s): Impact Date: January 27, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and local government entities.

This bill requires inmates being discharged from state prisons, as well as certain persons who have been discharged from jails or detention centers, have completed terms of probation, or have been released on parole to be provided with written notice of their eligibility to register to vote and instructions on how to register to vote. The bill will have no expenditure impact on the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) as the duties required under the bill will be managed within the normal course of business for the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021 **State Expenditure**

This bill requires the SCDC to give inmates discharged from a state prison, including those on probation or parole, written notice of their eligibility to register to vote upon sentence completion and instructions on how to register to vote. The bill also requires detention facilities, probation agents, and parole boards to do the same for persons convicted of a felony or an offense against the election laws who have completed their sentences, have completed probation, or have been released on parole. In addition, pardon orders must now explicitly state that the civil rights of the pardon applicant include the right to vote, and instructions on how to vote must be included with the pardon order. The act will take effect upon approval by the Governor.

Department of Corrections. SCDC indicates that the implementation of this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds since the agency currently provides this service and documentation to inmates being discharged.

Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the department.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

Local government run detention centers are required to provide written notice of voter registration eligibility/instructions, which may have an impact on the entities. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from local government entities.

Local Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director