

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC

Network Update



February 8, 2022

MDW SC Update: H. 3444 (Reconstitute State Election Commission) Amended on Floor and Sent to Senate

After adjourning debate since 2021 sine die, the House has taken up and amended H.3444 on the floor with no warning, limited debate, no public input, and without opportunity for consideration of the major issues in their amendment. Even some legislators who voted for it admitted they have not read it.

We especially appreciate Rep. Russell Ott for his attempts to obtain a fiscal impact statement and more careful process:

A first reading of the amendment yields the following changes, among others:

- It specifies that audits must be conducted in all statewide elections after the election concludes but before certification. In South Carolina, certification occurs 3 (three) days after the election. This is grossly insufficient time for a responsible audit.
- It transfers responsibility of municipal elections to counties, without any fiscal accommodation.
- It requires a filing fee from all candidates.
- It references SEC “standardized processes” without the public input process mandated when actual regulations are enacted (the Senate version of this bill did specify regulations and thus provide for public input).

The full bill as amended should be posted later tonight. It has been sent to the Senate could be taken up there as early as Thursday.

Lynn Shuler Teague
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC