



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.

Bill Number:	H. 3689	Introduced on January 12, 2023
Author:	Rutherford	
Subject:	Airboats	
Requestor:	House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Bryant	
Impact Date:	February 27, 2023	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill specifies that it is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River from one hour before legal sundown to one hour after legal sunrise. A person violating this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days.

The expenditure impact of this bill on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pending, contingent upon a response.

Judicial indicates that the misdemeanor offense created in this bill will have a minimal impact on summary court caseloads and anticipates that any increase in caseloads can be managed within existing appropriations. As such, this bill will have no expenditure impact on Judicial.

This bill may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. These court fines and fees are distributed to Other Funds of DNR and to the county where the fine was levied. Therefore, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined impact to Other Funds revenue of DNR and to local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.

This bill may increase the number of court cases in the magistrate and municipal court systems. However, RFA anticipates that any increase can be managed within existing resources. As such, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the magistrate and municipal court systems.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill specifies that it is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River from one hour before legal sundown to one hour after legal sunrise. A person violating this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days.

Department of Natural Resources. The expenditure impact of this bill on DNR is pending, contingent upon a response.

Judicial. This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for individuals who operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River from one hour before legal sundown to one hour after legal sunrise and imposes a fine of up to \$200 or imprisonment for no more than 30 days. Judicial indicates that the misdemeanor offense created in this bill will have a minimal impact on summary court caseloads, and any increase in caseloads can be managed within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on Judicial.

State Revenue

This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for individuals who operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River from one hour before legal sundown to one hour after legal sunrise and imposes a potential fine of up to \$200. This bill may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. These court fines and fees are distributed to Other Funds of DNR and to the county where the fine was levied. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined impact to Other Funds revenue of DNR due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

As previously noted, this bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for individuals who operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River from one hour before legal sundown to one hour after legal sunrise. This bill may increase the number of court cases in the magistrate and municipal court systems. However, RFA anticipates that any increase can be managed within existing resources. As such, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the magistrate and municipal court systems.

Local Revenue

This bill may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. These court fines and fees are distributed to Other Funds of DNR and to the county where the fine was levied. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined impact to local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director