



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3661
Author: Pitts
Requestor: House Ways and Means
Date: March 6, 2015
Subject: Motor Fuels, Manufacturing Property
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Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20
State Expenditure			
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	See below	See below	See below
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00	0.00
State Revenue			
General Fund	(\$61,400,000)	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	\$427,958,631	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	See below	See below	See below
Local Revenue	N/A	See below	See below

Fiscal Impact Summary

State General Fund Revenue. This bill is expected to reduce General Fund sales and use tax revenue by an estimated \$61,400,000 in FY 2015-16 as the result of the transfer of sales tax revenue to Other Funds. (This transfer would have a corresponding decrease in general fund expenditures.)

Other Funds. This bill is expected to increase Other Funds for the Department of Transportation from several sources for a net increase of \$427,958,631. Motor fuel user fees are lowered from \$0.16 to \$0.10 per gallon which reduces revenue by \$190,221,506 in FY 2015-16. An excise tax based on the price of motor fuel is expected to generate \$497,880,137*. The transfer of existing additional sales tax revenue on the purchase of vehicles is estimated to generate \$61,400,000. Finally, the maximum sales tax cap on motor vehicles is increased by \$200 which is estimated to generate \$58,900,000. These items net a total of \$427,958,631. This amount does not reflect the potential reallocation of any motor fuel user fee collections that may be distributed to the State Secondary "C" Fund Program from the transfer of state roads to the counties. Since county transportation committees may elect not to accept the transfer of any state roads, we are unable to determine the potential reallocation of these motor fuel user fee collections.

*The average wholesale price of gasoline and diesel fuel is held constant at 2014 levels in the analysis. Future motor fuel revenue estimates are dependent on changes in the average wholesale prices of gasoline and diesel fuel.

Local Revenue. The bill is expected to reduce local property tax revenue by \$53,455,013 in FY 2016-17, \$106,727,626 in FY 2017-18, \$159,868,431 in FY 2018-19, and \$212,927,816 in FY 2019-20 from new exemptions on manufacturing and business personal property tax. To the extent possible given the millage rate increase limitations, we anticipate that local governments will increase millage rates to offset the revenue reduction. The local revenue impact does not reflect the potential reallocation of any motor fuel user fee collections that may be distributed to the State Secondary "C" Fund Program from the transfer of state roads to the counties. Since county transportation committees may elect not to accept the transfer of any state roads, we are unable to determine the potential reallocation of these motor fuel user fee collections.

Local Expenditure. We do not have sufficient data to determine the expenditure impact on county governments from complying with the change in property taxes or accepting the responsibility of acquiring state roads.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

General Fund expenditures would be reduced by the transfer of sales tax on motor vehicles to the Department of Transportation.

The Department of Transportation. The department reports that any expenditure impact for implementing these changes would be minimal and can be absorbed by the agency. There would not be any impact on the General Funds or Federal Funds.

The Transportation Infrastructure Fund Board. The board reports that this bill would not result in additional expenditures or savings. Program expenditures for road projects would increase by the amount of additional revenue.

State Revenue

The following sections would affect state revenue as follows:

Section 10. This section amends Article 1 of Title 57 by changing the amount of the motor fuel user fee collections that are allocated to the State Secondary "C" Fund Program. This section provides a framework for a portion of state roads to be transferred to the counties. County transportation boards would have the option of refusing the transfer. For counties participating in the transfer, the allocation of the motor fuel user fee would be increased. The additional county "C" fund revenue will first be apportioned equally until each participating county receives one million dollars, then the remaining funds will be distributed in the same manner pursuant to Section 12-28-2740(A). Any money apportioned to a county that is not participating must instead be credited to the State Highway Fund. Currently, the county "C" fund program receives \$0.0266 of the \$0.16 per gallon of gasoline revenue for local road improvements.

Beginning July 1, 2016, an additional \$0.0134 will be distributed to county "C" funds for a total of \$0.04 per gallon of gasoline revenue. The additional distribution to county "C" funds is an estimated \$33,339,241 in FY 2016-17. Beginning July 1, 2018, the amount distributed to county "C" funds will be increased by an additional one-cent per gallon to a total of \$0.05 per gallon of gasoline and the additional distribution is estimated to be \$24,296,006 in FY 2018-19. Finally, beginning July 1, 2020, a total of \$0.06 per gallon of gasoline would be distributed to county "C" funds. The additional distribution for FY 2020-21 is estimated to be \$23,425,240. As a result of this start date, the motor fuel user fee revenue for July is to be remitted in August; therefore, additional revenue estimates represent eleven months of a full fiscal year. The total estimated additional distribution to county "C" funds from increasing the allocation amount from \$0.0266 to \$0.06 per gallon of gasoline is \$87,625,647.

Sections 12 and 13. These sections amend Sections 12-28-310 and 56-11-410, which lowers the motor fuel user fee from the current rate of \$0.16 per gallon to \$0.010 per gallon. This analysis uses estimated motor fuel consumption trends based upon data from the U.S. Department of Energy. The estimated reduction in total motor fuel revenue from the user fee decrease is \$190,221,506 in FY 2015-16. This change would take effect July 1, 2015. As a result of this start date, the motor fuel fee for July is remitted in August; therefore, the revenue reduction in FY 2015-16 represents eleven months of a full fiscal year. A full year reduction is approximately \$207,514,370.

Section 15. This section would amend Section 12-36-2110 so as beginning after June 30, 2015, the maximum sales and use tax limitation would be increased from the current \$300 per motor vehicle to \$500 per motor vehicle. Based upon the latest data on motor vehicle sales, the Board of Economic Advisors' maximum sales and use tax cap model suggests motor vehicle sales and use tax revenue would be increased by an additional estimated \$58,900,000 in FY 2015-16. Section 16 of this bill requires this revenue to be credited to the State Highway Fund, otherwise, \$47,120,000 would be credited to state General Fund and \$11,780,000 would be deposited in the Education Improvement Act Fund.

Section 16. Currently, Act 98 of 2013 allows fifty percent of the revenues derived from the sale of motor vehicles pursuant to Sections 12-36-2620(1) and 12-36-2640(1) to be redirected from the state public school building fund and credited to the State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund. This transfer only affects the four percent component of the sales and use tax credited to in the General Fund and does not affect EIA Fund revenue collections. According to the Department of Revenue, this transfer amounted to a reduction in General Fund sales and use tax revenue of \$59,543,949 and a concomitant increase in State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund revenue in FY 2013-14.

This section would amend Section 12-36-2647 to credit the remaining fifty percent of the revenues derived from the sale of motor vehicles pursuant to Sections 12-36-2620(1) and 12-36-2640(1) to the State Highway Fund. Again, this transfer only affects the four percent component of the sales and use tax and does not affect the one percent for EIA. Based upon the latest data on motor vehicle sales, the Board of Economic Advisors' maximum sales and use tax cap model suggests motor vehicle sales and use tax revenue of an estimated \$153,500,000 in FY 2015-16. Under current law, \$61,400,000 is expected to be transferred to the Department of

Transportation, \$61,400,000 is expected for deposit to the General Fund, and \$30,700,000 is to be credited to the Education Improvement Act Fund. Pursuant to this bill, the remaining General Fund allocation of \$61,400,000 would be transferred to the State Highway Fund. This transfer would affect the amount of general funds available for other projects and programs in FY 2015-16. This section also changed the recipient of the revenue transfer from the State Non-Federal Aid Highway Fund to the State Highway Fund within the Department of Transportation.

This section would also further amend Section 12-36-2647 to redirect any increase in revenue as the result of increasing the maximum sales and use tax cap from \$300 per motor vehicle to \$500 per motor vehicle to the State Highway Fund. This transfer would include the four percent component of the sales and use tax in the General Fund as well as the one percent component of the sales and use tax in the EIA Fund. As mentioned in Section 15 above, based upon the latest data on motor vehicle sales, the Board of Economic Advisors' maximum sales and use tax cap model suggests motor vehicle sales and use tax revenue would be increased by an estimated \$58,900,000 in FY 2015-16. This includes the General Fund portion of the sales and use tax of \$47,120,000 as well as the EIA Fund portion of \$11,780,000 in FY 2015-16. These revenues must be used exclusively for highway, road, and bridge maintenance, construction, and repair.

Section 17 and 18. These sections add Sections 12-28-410 and 56-11-910 to impose an excise tax on motor fuel. The excise tax is determined by applying the cumulative state sales tax rate to a weighted average of the wholesale price of motor fuel and is recalculated at six month intervals. The current cumulative state sales tax rate is six percent. A wholesale price for gasoline and diesel is determined by averaging the wholesale price of each over a six month period ending March 31st and September 30th. The average wholesale prices of gasoline and diesel are then weighted by the relative proportion of their respective \$0.10 excise tax collections to determine a weighted average price of the two. The excise tax is then determined by multiplying the cumulative state sales tax rate by the weighted average wholesale price and the excise tax is set for the six month period beginning January 1st and July 1st. Based upon data from the U.S. Department of Energy, we obtained the average wholesale prices of gasoline and diesel fuel in South Carolina for 2014. As a result, an average wholesale price of \$2.56 per gallon of gasoline and \$2.81 per gallon of diesel fuel was used for this estimate and based upon the current excise tax collections a relative weight of 78.67% was given to gasoline and 21.33% to diesel to create a weighted average of the wholesale price of \$2.62. Applying the cumulative sales tax rate to this weighted average wholesale price results in an excise tax of \$0.157 per gallon of motor fuel. Based upon these figures, the total motor fuel excise tax revenue is expected to raise \$497,880,137 in FY 2015-16. Actual collections for FY 2015-16 and each year thereafter, will depend on the actual wholesale prices of motor fuel in the applicable periods. This change would take effect July 1, 2015. As a result of this start date, the motor fuel excise taxes charged in July will be remitted in August; therefore, the estimate for FY 2015-16 represents eleven months for the first fiscal year. A full fiscal year estimate is \$543,141,968.

In sum, the net estimated impact from this bill on motor fuel revenue from the imposed excise tax and the reduced user fee is \$307,658,631 for FY 2015-16. The full fiscal year estimate is \$335,627,597.

Section 21. Except as otherwise provided, this act takes effect July 1, 2015.

Local Expenditure

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-five county governments regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. One county responded but could not place a dollar amount on the impact of this bill. Therefore, our office does not have sufficient data to determine the expenditure impact on county governments from complying with the change in property taxes or accepting the responsibility of acquiring state roads.

Local Revenue

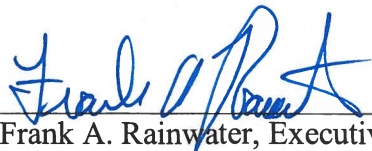
The following sections would affect local revenue as follows:

Section 19. This section provides a property tax exemption of 42.75% of the appraised value of manufacturing property. Currently, manufacturing property is assessed at 10.5% of the appraised value. The exemption begins in tax year 2016 and is phased-in at 10.6875% per year for four years. Based upon assessed value growth for manufacturing property through tax year 2013, we project that the total value for this property class will decline at 3% per year over the period from tax year 2016 to 2019. Once the exemption is fully phased in, the local revenue reduction would total \$106,927,366 in FY 2019-20. The impact of the exemption by fiscal year is outlined below. The exemption effectively lowers the assessment ratio from 10.5% to 6.01%. To the extent possible given the millage rate increase limitations, we anticipate that local governments will increase millage rates to offset the revenue reduction.

Fiscal Year	Value Exemption %	Total Local Revenue Reduction	Annual Additional Local Revenue Reduction
FY 2015-16		N/A	N/A
FY 2016-17	10.6875%	(\$ 28,263,269)	(\$ 28,263,269)
FY 2017-18	21.3750%	(\$ 55,486,570)	(\$ 27,223,301)
FY 2018-19	32.0625%	(\$ 81,698,604)	(\$ 26,212,034)
FY 2019-20	42.7500%	(\$ 106,927,366)	(\$ 25,228,762)

Section 20. This section provides a property tax exemption of 42.75% of the appraised value of business personal property. Currently, business personal property is assessed at 10.5% of the appraised value. The exemption begins in tax year 2016 and is phased-in at 10.6875% per year for four years. Based upon assessed value growth for business personal property through tax year 2013, we project that the total value for this property class will increase at 0.5% per year over the period from tax year 2016 to 2019. Once the exemption is fully phased in, the local revenue reduction would total \$106,000,450 in FY 2019-20. The impact of the exemption by fiscal year is outlined below. This exemption effectively lowers the assessment ratio from 10.5% to 6.01%. To the extent possible given the millage rate increase limitations, we anticipate that local governments will increase millage rates to offset the revenue reduction.

Fiscal Year	Value Exemption %	Total Local Revenue Reduction	Annual Additional Local Revenue Reduction
FY 2015-16		N/A	N/A
FY 2016-17	10.6875%	(\$ 25,191,745)	(\$ 25,191,745)
FY 2017-18	21.3750%	(\$ 51,241,055)	(\$ 26,049,311)
FY 2018-19	32.0625%	(\$ 78,169,827)	(\$ 26,928,711)
FY 2019-20	42.7500%	(\$ 106,000,450)	(\$ 27,830,624)



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