



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0220
 Author: Malloy
 Requestor: Senate Judiciary
 Date: April 13, 2015
 Subject: Arson
 RFA Analyst(s): Shealy, Wren, and Gardner

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	Minimal	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	Minimal	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill is expected to have minimal impact on the General Fund that can be absorbed by the Judicial Department within their current appropriations. This bill will have no impact on Other Funds or Federal Funds.

This bill is also expected to have a minimal expenditure impact on municipal governments. Since our office received no responses from the counties surveyed, we cannot determine the expenditure impact on county governments.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This bill includes personal property and certain other buildings or property, such as churches, municipal buildings, ships, and railway cars within the purview of the first, second, and third degree arson statutes. These offenses are heard in General Sessions court.

This bill also allows the Court to issue bench warrants for certain offenders being monitored by Probation, Pardon and Parole who fail to appear for certain civil contempt proceedings.

This bill eliminates some circumstances that would elevate certain drug offenses from first or second offenses to second, third or subsequent offenses.

During fiscal year 2013-2014, there were 205 charges and 101 convictions for arson in the first, second, or third degree in South Carolina state courts.

There is no data available which would allow the Judicial Department to determine how many fewer or additional charges, if any, would be brought as a result of this bill. However, if any additional hearings or trials would be held in General Sessions court as a result of this legislation it is anticipated the Judicial Department would absorb the costs. It is also anticipated that the passage of the bill could impact the General Sessions court docket if additional hearings and trials are held. This bill will have no impact on Federal or Other Funds.

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services indicates this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

State Revenue

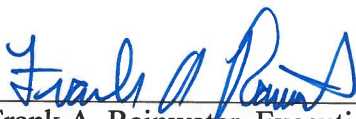
N/A

Local Expenditure

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina and twenty-three county governments regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. The Municipal Association reports that this bill would have a minimal expenditure impact on municipal governments. Since our office received no responses from the counties surveyed, we cannot determine the expenditure impact on county governments.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director