



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0293
Author: Alexander
Requestor: Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry
Date: April 9, 2015
Subject: Sign Language Interpreters Act
RFA Analyst(s): Fulmer, Shealy, Gardner, Stein, and Wren

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$70,063	\$0
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	\$4,000,000	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill would have an impact of no impact to the General Fund or Federal Funds and a \$70,063 to Other Funds. The impact to local school districts at least \$4,000,000.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

The "Sign Language Interpreters Act" provides for a minimal level of competency for sign language interpreters used by government institutions, public schools, judicial, and health care systems. Sign language interpreters will be required to register with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, which will maintain a registry of all interpreters on its website.

The State Department of Education. The department indicates that an average salary paid for a sign language interpreter within the school districts is \$45,000. If each school district had one interpreter, the local expenditure impact would be \$4,000,000. There would be costs associated with training and professional development. However, those costs are indeterminable at this time.

The Department of Transportation. (DOT) The agency states that there will be additional Other Fund expenditures by the agency of \$79,063 if they are required to maintain a staff level sign language interpreter. This figure is based on the average salary of an interpreter of \$50,000 annually for an experienced interpreter. They also included employee benefits for 2016 at

43.75% in the amount of \$21,876. Additionally, they estimate a 10% cost for supplies and travel in the amount of \$7,187. General Fund and Federal Funds would not be impacted.

The following agencies indicate a minimal expenditure impact which can be absorbed in current appropriations:

Medical University of South Carolina,
Department of Corrections,
Department of Health and Environmental Control,
Department of Agriculture,
Department of Natural Resources,
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism,
Department of Commerce,
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and
Department of Health and Human Services.

The following agencies indicate there is no expenditure impact to the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds:

State Treasurer's Office,
Secretary of State,
Attorney General's Office,
Adjutant General,
Judicial Department,
Department of Motor Vehicles,
Department of Revenue,
Department of Mental Health,
Department of Public Safety,
Department of Health and Human Services,
Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon,
Department of Juvenile Justice,
Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services,
Department of Social Services,
Department of Disabilities and Special Needs,
Department of Insurance,
Governor's School for Science and Math,
Governor's School for Arts and Humanities,
John de la Howe School, and
Commission on Higher Education (all public universities).

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina and thirteen county governments regarding the impact of this bill and received no responses. Therefore, our office cannot provide a local expenditure impact at this time.

Local Revenue

N/A

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Rainwater", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director