



**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.*

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| <b>Bill Number:</b>    | H.3517   | Introduced on January 12, 2021 |
| <b>Author:</b>         | Robinson   |                                |
| <b>Subject:</b>        | Adverse Childhood Experiences                          |                                |
| <b>Requestor:</b>      | House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs |                                |
| <b>RFA Analyst(s):</b> | Payne  |                                |
| <b>Impact Date:</b>    | February 3, 2021                                       |                                |

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will increase General Fund expenditures of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for training to increase awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), their impact on health, collecting and disseminating data, building a prevention-planning network, and promoting policies to address ACEs statewide by an undetermined amount annually beginning in FY 2021-22. The fiscal impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon an estimate from DHEC and the Children's Trust of South Carolina.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires DHEC to allocate appropriated state funds and any federal funding or private grants to raise awareness of ACEs and implement strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs and mitigate their impact on the health and well-being of residents. This bill defines ACEs as “a traumatic event that occurs in a child's life before the age of eighteen, which can harm a child's brain and its development and can result in long-term negative health and social outcomes, and includes emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; substance use and mental illness of someone in the household; being separated from parents, including incarceration and divorce; food insecurity; and homelessness.”

The bill requires DHEC to:

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate comprehensive, relevant data and information about ACEs
- Facilitate ongoing education and training to raise awareness
- Facilitate the creation and operation of multi-disciplinary, public-private stakeholder groups to investigate, catalogue, and analyze existing resources to reduce ACEs and to implement research and evidence-based programs and services to mitigate the impact of ACEs

DHEC may contract with an external organization to assist in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating of adverse childhood experiences information, providing education or training, organizing and convening meetings of the committee, and performing other tasks as may be

incident to these activities, including providing the necessary data, information, and resources to ensure successful completion of the ongoing oversight required by this section. Annually, DHEC is also required to report to the General Assembly on the state of ACEs in South Carolina and existing and needed resources to mitigate the effects of ACEs.

To accomplish the requirements of this bill, DHEC will contract with an external organization with experience in implementing strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs. DHEC asked the Children's Trust of South Carolina to estimate the additional expenditures necessary to take its county-level programs and apply those strategies statewide. Currently, the Children's Trust of South Carolina operates several programs in this state that are part of their efforts to raise awareness of, and mitigate the impacts of ACEs. Some of these programs include KIDS COUNT, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program), and the Strengthening Families Program. These programs are designed to help Children's Trust gather and analyze data on childhood experiences as well as provide counseling services for families with children.

The fiscal impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon an estimate from DHEC and the Children's Trust of South Carolina.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director