



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. 3937 Introduced on February 23, 2021
Author: Stavrinakis
Subject: High Speed Rail System Commission
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Williams, Coomer, and Griffith
Impact Date: April 5, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the High Speed Rail System Commission (commission) to examine and develop a plan of action for a high speed rail system in South Carolina. The commission's membership is as follows:

- four members from the Senate,
- four members from the House of Representatives,
- one member from the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board,
- the Secretary of Commerce, and
- the Director of the Department of Transportation.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Senate and the House of Representatives because supporting the commission can be managed within their existing appropriations. The Department of Transportation and the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board can also manage the additional duties within their existing appropriations. The Department of Commerce does not anticipate any expenditure impact as a result of serving on the commission or providing staff assistance; however, the agency noted that if extensive research projects are required there could be an undetermined expenditure impact on the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 23, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill establishes the High Speed Rail System Commission (commission) to examine and develop a plan of action for a high speed rail system in South Carolina. The commission's membership is as follows:

- four members from the Senate,
- four members from the House of Representatives,
- one member from the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board,
- the Secretary of Commerce, and
- the Director of the Department of Transportation.

The commission will study, evaluate, create, and promote effective and competitive plans for the construction and operation of high speed rail service, as well as intercity passenger rail service, through and between points in South Carolina and other states.

House of Representatives and Senate. The expenses of the commission must be paid from the approved accounts of the House of Representatives and Senate, and members of the commission serve without pay but receive mileage, subsistence, and per diem. This bill would require four members of the House of Representatives, as appointed by the Speaker of the House, to serve on the commission. The House of Representatives has indicated they will be able to accomplish the duties specified in this bill using existing appropriations and staff. It would also require four members of the Senate, as appointed by the President of the Senate, to serve on the commission. The Senate has indicated they will be able to accomplish the duties specified in this bill using existing appropriations and staff.

SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank. This bill requires the chairman of the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board to appoint one member of the board to also serve as a member of the commission. We anticipate the agency will be able to manage the additional duties required by the legislation within its existing appropriations.

Department of Transportation. This bill requires the Director of the Department of Transportation, or her designee, to serve as a member of the commission. The department reports that it will manage the additional duties required by the legislation within its existing appropriations. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact on the department.

Department of Commerce. This bill requires the Secretary of Commerce or his designee to serve as a member of the High Speed Rail Commission, which examines and develops a plan of action for a high speed rail system in South Carolina. The bill also requires the staff of the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to assist the commission in the performance of its duties. While Commerce does not anticipate any expenditure impact as a result of participating in the commission's activities, Commerce noted that if such support required the funding of any extensive research projects related to the commission, an undetermined expenditure impact on Commerce could occur.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director