



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Bill Number:</b>    | S. 229                               | Introduced on January 12, 2021 |
| <b>Author:</b>         | Shealy                               |                                |
| <b>Subject:</b>        | SC Child Abuse Response Protocol Act |                                |
| <b>Requestor:</b>      | Senate Family and Veterans Services  |                                |
| <b>RFA Analyst(s):</b> | Gallagher, Gardner, Payne, Wren      |                                |
| <b>Impact Date:</b>    | March 19, 2021                       |                                |

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers to develop the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol (protocol), which will be annually reviewed and updated as needed by an advisory council of relevant stakeholders. This bill will increase the Department of Children’s Advocacy General Fund expenditures by \$9,000 beginning in FY 2021-22, to compensate an existing employee for assuming additional duties related to maintaining and updating the protocol.

This bill requires 13 relevant stakeholders to serve as members of the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee. This bill will have no impact on the Department of Social Services’ (DSS) or the Judicial Department’s expenditures because any travel expenses associated with attending the advisory committee can be managed within existing budgets. This bill will have no impact on local expenditures for local school districts because any travel costs associated with the advisory council can be managed within existing budgets. Based on previous responses received by Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) from counties and the South Carolina Municipal Association, we anticipate this bill will have no impact on local law enforcement expenditures because any travel costs associated with the advisory council can be managed within existing budgets.

This bill is pending contingent upon a response from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency (SLED).

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 14, 2020**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers to develop the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol (protocol). Once the protocol is developed it is to be made publicly available and must be reviewed annually and updated as needed by the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee, which will serve as an advisory council of 13 relevant stakeholders appointed by the Governor.

**Department of Children’s Advocacy.** This bill requires the Department of Children’s Advocacy to maintain the protocol and the advisory committee’s updates to the protocol. Further, the department is tasked with providing support staff for committee meetings. The department anticipates this will result in an increase in administrative duties that can be absorbed by an existing employee. This would result in a recurring General Fund expenditure of \$9,000,

beginning in FY 2021-22, to compensate the existing employee 15 percent of their current salary for assuming these additional duties and includes employer contributions.

**Department of Social Services.** This bill requires DSS to provide a representative to serve on the advisory committee. DSS indicates that any travel expenses that any travel expenses associated with attending council meetings can be managed within their current budget. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**Judicial Department.** This bill requires that a multidisciplinary team follow the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol Act as developed by the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers. At least one member of this advisory council must be from a county solicitor’s office. As the bill does not require the department to perform activities outside of the scope of its normal course of business, there will be no expenditure impact on the department’s expenditures.

**Department of Social Services.** This bill requires DSS to provide a representative to serve on the advisory committee. DSS indicates that any travel expenses including mileage, subsistence and per diem to attend council meetings can be managed within their current budget. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**Department of Public Safety.** This bill requires DPS to provide a representative to serve on the advisory committee. This bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the department.

**South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency.** This bill requires an individual from state law enforcement to serve as a representative on the advisory committee. This bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the division.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

**Local School Districts.** This bill requires one individual from a school district to serve on the advisory committee known as the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee. The State Department of Education indicates that any travel expenses for meetings can be managed within the existing budget of the school district. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on local school districts.

**Local Law Enforcement.** This bill requires that at least one member of the advisory council be from state or county law enforcement. Based on previous responses received by RFA from counties as well as the South Carolina Municipal Association, we anticipate this bill will have no impact on local law enforcement expenditures because any travel costs associated with the advisory council can be managed within existing budgets.

#### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director