



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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|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bill Number: | S. 0460 | Introduced on January 13, 2021 |
| Author: | Alexander | |
| Subject: | State Fire Marshal | |
| Requestor: | Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry | |
| RFA Analyst(s): | Coomer | |
| Impact Date: | October 5, 2021 | |

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends multiple code sections related to the duties and authority of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

The overall expenditure impact on the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) is undetermined. However, this bill will have no expenditure impact on LLR due to the provisions that codify current practices of OSFM and reallocate existing funds for administrative costs. The bill will have an undetermined expenditure impact on LLR due to cost savings from donations of equipment.

The overall revenue impact on Other Funds of LLR is undetermined. However, the bill will have an undetermined revenue impact on LLR due to the provisions relating to administrative citations and fees for official copies of firefighter transcripts and certificates. However, the revenue impact of these provisions is expected to be minimal because unofficial copies of transcripts are available at no cost, and because few requests to reprint certificates are expected. This bill will have no revenue impact on LLR due to the provision that reallocates existing funds for administrative costs.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill codifies current practices of LLR and OSFM, specifies the jurisdiction and authority of the State Fire Marshal, and makes further technical changes to current law. These provisions will have no expenditure impact on LLR and OSFM because no new requirements or duties of the State Fire Marshal and the OSFM are created.

Additionally, this bill authorizes OSFM to retain 3 percent of the funds collected pursuant to Section 38-7-20 for the express purpose of administering the Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment Program (V-SAFE). OSFM has indicated that the administrative duties associated with the V-SAFE program include the following:

- developing grant application packages
- testing the application portal

- compiling grant requests
- preparing application packages for the Peer Review Panel
- organizing and facilitating Peer Review Panel meetings
- distributing grant award checks
- following up with awardees for required progress reports
- processing grant amendment requests

OSFM reports that annual reallocations for administrative costs will total approximately \$60,000 based on the current grant funds available for the program. However, this provision will have no expenditure impact on the Other Funds of OSFM because this is a reallocation of existing Other Funds revenues, and no new expenditures are being authorized that were previously unfunded.

Furthermore, this bill allows LLR, as well as the Forestry Commission, to accept donations of new or used equipment from individuals or organizations and provides guidelines for the use of such equipment. Such donations may result in a cost savings for OSFM because it may reduce expenditures for equipment. Because the benevolence of the general public cannot be anticipated, the expenditure impact of this section is undetermined. However, OSFM has indicated previously that many fire departments have an extensive list of equipment needs. Therefore, even after receiving donations, OSFM may still need to request funding in order to meet their equipment needs.

State Revenue

This bill allows OSFM to issue administrative citations of no more than \$1,000 for each violation. These fines would be deposited into the State Fire account and would be used to defray administrative costs. LLR and OSFM cannot forecast the amount of fines that may be collected under this provision. However, the agencies do not anticipate the amount will be a significant number because an individual or entity is first given an opportunity to make corrections and become compliant before an administrative penalty is assessed. Therefore, the Other Funds revenue impact of this provision on LLR and OSFM is undetermined but expected to be minimal.

Additionally, this bill authorizes OSFM to retain 3 percent of the funds collected pursuant to Section 38-7-20 for the express purpose of administering the V-SAFE Program. LLR and OSFM estimate that annual reallocations for administrative costs will total approximately \$60,000 based on current grant funds available for the program. This provision will have no revenue impact on the Other Funds of OSFM because this is only a reallocation of existing Other Funds revenues.

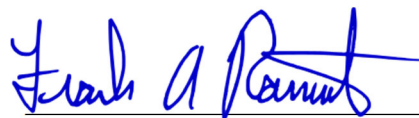
Furthermore, this bill changes the fee for requesting an official copy of a firefighter transcript from \$5 to \$3 and authorizes OSFM to charge \$5 to reprint certificates. LLR and OSFM do not anticipate a significant change in revenue from requests for official copies of transcripts because unofficial versions of a firefighter's file are available at no cost. Additionally, the agencies do not anticipate receiving many requests to reprint certificates. Therefore, the Other Funds revenue impact of this provision on LLR and OSFM is undetermined but expected to be minimal.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



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