



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:	S. 0241	Signed by Governor on May 21, 2024
Author:	Garrett	
Subject:	Genetic Counselors	
Requestor:	Senate	
RFA Analyst(s):	Wren	
Impact Date:	June 11, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the South Carolina Board of Genetic Counselors, which will be under the administration of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR). The board may adopt rules governing its proceedings and may promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill, including, but not limited to, promulgation of regulations for the practice of genetic counseling and establishing disciplinary procedures. The board must be composed of five members appointed by the Governor. The bill also creates a new misdemeanor offense, punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both.

This bill will increase recurring Other Funds expenses of the Board of Genetic Counselors by \$50,000 beginning in FY 2024-25. This amount includes \$20,000 for miscellaneous services and supplies, board meeting expenses, travel, and rent. Additionally, the board anticipates sharing at least one board administrator and one administrative assistant with other boards. The new board will be responsible for \$30,000, which is a percentage of the salary and fringe for the shared personnel. LLR will request an increase in Other Funds authorization for these expenses.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for Judicial. While Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in court caseloads, any increase can be managed using existing staff and appropriations.

If the Board of Genetic Counselors falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing, Proviso 81.3 of the Appropriations Act of FY 2024-25 will require LLR to remit to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Since the board's annual expenses are estimated to total \$50,000, this bill may increase General Fund revenue by \$5,000 beginning in FY 2024-25 as long as the board does not have an overall negative ending cash balance.

LLR estimates that approximately 100 genetic counselors will seek licensure in the first year of implementation. Since the initial license fee is \$600, this will increase Other Funds revenue of the board by \$60,000 in FY 2024-25. The Other Funds revenue impact on the board thereafter for license renewal fees is undetermined since the renewal fee has not been established in regulation. Further, any increase in Other Funds revenue of the board due to fines resulting from disciplinary actions is also undetermined as the number of actions that may occur is unknown.

This bill imposes a new misdemeanor with an associated fine, which may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to General Fund revenue, Other Funds revenue, and local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 21, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill creates the South Carolina Board of Genetic Counselors. LLR must provide all administrative, fiscal, investigative, inspectional, clerical, secretarial, and license renewal operations and activities of the board. The board may adopt rules governing its proceedings and may promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill, including, but not limited to, promulgation of regulations for the practice of genetic counseling and establishing disciplinary procedures. The board must be composed of five members appointed by the Governor, one of whom must be a lay member from the state at-large, and four must be practicing genetic counselors. Meetings must be held biennially, and additional meetings may be held at the call of the chair or upon the written request of three board members. Members of the board are entitled to per diem, subsistence, and mileage.

The bill also specifies that the board may restrict or refuse a license to an applicant based on certain criteria. Additionally, the bill creates a new misdemeanor offense, with a fine no more than \$500 or imprisonment of not more than ninety days, or both, for any person who violates the provisions of the bill. Further, the bill specifies that LLR, the board, or a person aggrieved by a final action of the board may seek review by an administrative law judge.

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. LLR indicates that this bill will increase recurring Other Funds expenses of the new Board of Genetic Counselors by approximately \$50,000 beginning in FY 2024-25. This amount includes \$20,000 for miscellaneous services and supplies, board meeting expenses, travel, and rent. Additionally, the board anticipates sharing at least one board administrator and one administrative assistant with other boards. The new board will be responsible for \$30,000, which is a percentage of the salary and fringe for the shared personnel. Further, LLR will request an increase in Other Funds authorization to cover these expenses.

Judicial. This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense, with a fine no more than \$500 or imprisonment of not more than ninety days, or both, for any person who violates the provisions of the bill. Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial.

State Revenue

This bill creates the South Carolina Board of Genetic Counselors which will be under the administration of LLR. The initial license fee is \$600 and is subject to change in regulation. LLR may establish and adjust application fees, license renewal fees, late fees, reinstatement fees, and other related fees in regulations. Fees must be established at levels that are adequate to ensure the continued operation of the program and may not substantially exceed this need.

The bill also allows the board to impose a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000 for each disciplinary action. The total penalty may not exceed \$10,000. The revenue from these fines will be retained by LLR and used to defray administrative costs for investigations and hearings.

LLR estimates that approximately 100 genetic counselors will seek licensure in the first year of implementation. Since the initial license fee is \$600, this will increase Other Funds revenue of the board by \$60,000 in FY 2024-25. The Other Funds revenue impact on the board thereafter for license renewal fees and other such fees is undetermined since the renewal fees have not yet been established in regulation. Further, any increase in Other Funds revenue of the board due to disciplinary actions is also undetermined as the number of actions that may occur is unknown.

If the board falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing, Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act will require LLR to remit to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of annual expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Since the board's annual expenses are estimated to total \$50,000, this bill may increase General Fund revenue by \$5,000 beginning in FY 2024-25 as long as the board does not have an overall negative ending cash balance.

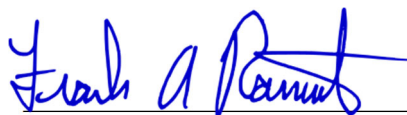
Further, this bill imposes a new misdemeanor with an associated fine, which may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to General Fund revenue and Other Funds revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill imposes a new misdemeanor with an associated fine, which may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director