



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. 3394	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Homicide by Child Abuse	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	February 4, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill specifies a person is guilty of homicide by child abuse if he causes the death of a child who is under eighteen years. Currently, homicide by child abuse applies if the child who dies is under age eleven. Homicide by child abuse is classified as a felony. For reference, there were ten dispositions and nine convictions of homicide by child abuse in FY 2023-24.

As this bill modifies an existing offense, it is not expected to have an impact on the number of general sessions court cases. However, the modification may increase the workload of the court system and the Commission of Indigent Defense (CID), the Commission for Prosecution Coordination (CPC), the Department of Corrections (Corrections), and the Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (PPP). The potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the associated increase in the workload and length of incarcerations. Judicial and CPC anticipate that the potential increase in workload can be managed within existing appropriations. CID and PPP state that the extent of the impact is unknown until the legislation is enacted and implemented. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, \$36,553 of which was state funded.

Based on a response on similar legislation, the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) anticipates that this bill will have no expenditure impact for the Department of Social Services (DSS) as there is no change to the agency's current operations in these instances.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill specifies a person is guilty of homicide by child abuse if he causes the death of a child who is under eighteen years. Currently, homicide by child abuse applies if the child who dies is under age eleven. Homicide by child abuse is classified as a felony. For reference, there were ten dispositions and nine convictions of homicide by child abuse in FY 2023-24.

As this is a modification of an existing offense, the bill is not expected to have an impact on the number of general sessions court cases. However, the modification may increase the workload of the court system and CID, CPC, Corrections, and PPP. The potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the associated increase in the workload and length of

incarcerations. Judicial and CPC anticipate that the potential increase in workload can be managed within existing appropriations. CID and PPP state that the extent of the impact is unknown until the legislation is enacted and implemented. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, \$36,553 of which was state funded. Additionally, based on a response on similar legislation, RFA anticipates that this bill will have no expenditure impact for DSS as there is no change to the agency's current operations in these instances.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director