



# 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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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 3502	Introduced on January 14, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Department of Social Services	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Judiciary	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Boggs	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	January 31, 2025	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill clarifies that legal representatives of the Department of Social Services (DSS) must ensure that child welfare and safety are the predominant basis of all agency recommendations and decisions pertaining to abuse and neglect proceedings. The legal representatives of DSS have the sole discretion on behalf of the agency over whether to file a child abuse or neglect petition in the family court and any decisions regarding the pursuit, settlement, or appeal of a pending action.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for DSS or Judicial. DSS indicated that this bill clarifies the roles and responsibilities of DSS counsel, relative to case management staff, in determining whether to advance with child welfare court proceedings. Therefore, this bill does not modify the responsibilities of the agency. Additionally, Judicial anticipates any change due to the bill in family court proceedings can be managed within existing appropriations.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on January 14, 2025

##### State Expenditure

This bill clarifies that legal representatives of DSS must ensure that child welfare and safety are the predominant basis of all agency recommendations and decisions pertaining to abuse and neglect proceedings. The legal representatives of DSS have the sole discretion on behalf of the agency over whether to file a child abuse or neglect petition in the family court and any decisions regarding the pursuit, settlement, or appeal of a pending action.

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##### State Revenue

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director