



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

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. 3752	Introduced on January 15, 2025
Subject:	Social Work Interstate Compact Act	
Requestor:	House Labor, Commerce, and Industry	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	March 20, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows for the entry of the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners into the Social Work Interstate Compact. The bill also specifies the purpose, functions, and operations of the Social Work Interstate Compact.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on LLR is undetermined. Neither the agency nor the Board of Social Work Examiners can determine the total expenditure impact since the Social Work Compact Commission nor the Social Work Interstate Compact rules have been established. However, LLR may need to hire 1.0 FTE to handle the criminal background checks and additional administrative requirements related to compact participation. Salary and fringe for the new FTE would total \$61,090. Additional recurring expenses of \$250 for miscellaneous supplies and \$2,184 in nonrecurring expenses for computer equipment for the FTE are also expected. Therefore, Other Funds expenses of the agency would increase by at least \$63,524 in the first year of the compact's existence. Expenses would decrease to \$61,340 each year thereafter. However, if the FTE is needed, LLR will not need to request an increase in Other Funds authorization.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) since the agency can manage any increase in criminal background searches with existing appropriations and with existing staff.

The Board of Social Work Examiners falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Although the overall expenditure impact of the bill on LLR is undetermined, this portion of the bill may increase General Fund revenue by at least \$6,352 for the new FTE and miscellaneous expenses in the first year of the compact's existence.

The overall Other Funds revenue impact on LLR is undetermined since the board is unable to determine how many applicants will seek compact licensure, the compact privilege fee the board will set for compact licensure, or how many instances of adverse action will occur upon entry into the compact.

Based upon a three-year historical average, SLED collected an average of \$17,541,968 from background checks. Assuming a similar pattern in future years and since this amount is over the \$4,461,000 amount that is allocated to the General Fund pursuant to proviso, we anticipate that Other Funds of SLED will increase by an undetermined amount in the first year of the compact's existence as a result of the potential increase in background checks. There would be no increase to the General Fund for this portion of the bill.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 15, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill allows for the entry of the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners (board) into the Social Work Interstate Compact (compact). The compact requires member states to recognize licenses for social workers issued by any other member state as well as allow for the practice of telehealth between member states. The bill specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the Social Work Compact Commission (commission), the collective governing instrumentality of the compact states. The commission must pay the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities and may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties. The bill also establishes the qualifications for social workers under the compact, including national background checks with fingerprints by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The bill further provides for the compact states' rights and obligations, including those involving adverse action.

Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. This bill authorizes the board, under the administration of LLR, to afford legal recognition to social workers in a manner that is consistent with the terms of the compact. The board may investigate and take adverse action on a social worker licensed under the compact and must report an adverse action taken in accordance with the rules of the commission. Any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees related to investigation must be paid by the board, but these expenses may be recovered from the affected party as a result of litigation. Compact states are required to fully implement FBI fingerprint criminal background check procedures in the application process. Additionally, the board must participate in the commission's coordinated licensure database by maintaining and submitting a uniform data set on all licensees in the state. Further, the board must appoint one delegate to act on behalf of the state during annual meetings of the commission and any additional meetings.

The bill allows the commission to levy and collect an annual assessment from each compact state or impose fees on other parties, but this assessment has not been determined. The bill also specifies that the commission must pay for the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities. It is not clear at this time if the travel expenses for the state's delegate to attend commission meetings will be covered by the commission.

LLR indicates that the agency and board are unable to determine the total expenditure impact of this bill since the commission nor the compact rules have been established. However, the agency indicates that it may need to hire 1.0 FTE, an administrative assistant, to handle the criminal background check requirements and additional administrative requirements related to compact

participation. Salary and fringe for the new FTE would total \$61,090. Additionally, the agency anticipates additional recurring expenses of \$250 for miscellaneous supplies and \$2,184 in nonrecurring expenses for computer equipment for the FTE. This would increase Other Funds expenses of the agency by at least \$63,524 in the first year of the compact's existence. Expenses would decrease to at least \$61,340 each year thereafter. However, if the FTE is needed, the agency will not need to request an increase in Other Funds authorization.

State Law Enforcement Division. SLED indicates that any expenses associated with conducting additional criminal background searches can be managed within existing appropriations and with existing staff. We anticipate that any revenue received from the criminal background search fee that is retained by SLED will be used to offset expenses. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

State Revenue

This bill allows for the entry of the board into the compact. The compact requires member states to recognize licenses for social workers issued by any other member state as well as allow for the practice of telehealth between member states. The bill specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the commission, the collective governing instrumentality of the compact states. The commission must pay the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities and may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties. The bill also establishes the qualifications for social workers under the compact, including national background checks with fingerprints by the FBI. The bill further provides for the compact states' rights and obligations, including those involving adverse action.

This bill allows the board to charge a fee for granting an interstate compact license. Since the board is unable to determine how many applicants will seek compact licensure, the compact privilege fee the board will set for compact licensure, or how many instances of adverse action will occur upon entry into the compact, LLR is unable to estimate the expected revenue from these sources. Therefore, the Other Funds revenue impact on the agency is undetermined.

Additionally, the board falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2024-25 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the board has an overall negative ending cash balance. Although the overall expenditure impact of the bill on LLR is undetermined, this portion of the bill may increase General Fund revenue by at least \$6,352 in the first year of the compact's existence.

This bill may increase the number of criminal records searches that SLED is required to perform since the board does not currently require state or federal fingerprint criminal background checks. SLED indicates that the total cost for a criminal records search is \$50.50, of which \$25 is retained by SLED. The vendor, Identogo, receives \$13.50, and the remainder of the fee, \$12, is remitted to the FBI. Pursuant to Section 23-3-115(A), revenue generated by criminal records checks performed by SLED up to an amount of \$4,461,000 must be deposited in the General Fund. Any revenue over that amount is retained by SLED.

LLR is unable to estimate the number of social workers that may apply for a compact license and would need to submit a criminal background check. However, based upon a three-year historical average, SLED collected an average of \$17,541,968 from background checks. Assuming a similar pattern in future years and since this amount is over the \$4,461,000 amount that is allocated to the General Fund, we anticipate that Other Funds of SLED will increase by an undetermined amount in the first year of the compact's existence as a result of the potential increase in background checks. There would be no increase to the General Fund for this portion of the bill.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director