



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. 4151	Introduced on March 5, 2025
Subject:	Juveniles	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	March 25, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill adds to the exclusions to the definition of a child or juvenile for the purposes of the Juvenile Justice Code. The new exclusions include a person aged seventeen or older who is charged with any offense involving a weapon, as well as a person aged sixteen or older who is charged with a felony offense carrying a term of imprisonment for thirty years or more, a first-degree burglary offense, or the offense of attempted murder. This shifts the court of original jurisdiction from family court to circuit court for these excluded individuals. However, the bill authorizes the family court to, at the discretion of the solicitor, hear cases for these individuals.

Judicial anticipates any shift in the caseload between family court and circuit court can be managed within existing appropriations. This bill will also have no expenditure impact for the Commission on Prosecution Coordination as the agency currently handles the warrants for these cases in family court. Further, this bill may result in a shift in cases from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to the Commission of Indigent Defense (CID) and potentially impact the workload for the Department of Corrections (Corrections) and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP) due to a potential increase in incarcerations. CID anticipates being able to manage any impact to expenses due to this bill within existing appropriations. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, of which \$36,553 was state funded.

The fiscal impact for Corrections, PPP, and DJJ is pending, contingent upon a response from these agencies.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 5, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the exclusions to the definition of a child or juvenile for the purposes of the Juvenile Justice Code. The new exclusions include a person aged seventeen or older who is charged with any offense involving a weapon, as well as a person aged sixteen or older who is charged with a felony offense carrying a term of imprisonment for thirty years or more, a first-degree burglary offense, or the offense of attempted murder.

Currently, family court has original jurisdiction for these seventeen- and sixteen-year-olds, and DJJ and the Commission of Prosecutions Coordination manage the defense and prosecution of these cases.

This bill shifts the court of original jurisdiction from family court to circuit court for these excluded individuals. However, the bill authorizes the family court to, at the discretion of the solicitor, hear cases for these individuals. Judicial anticipates the potential shift of cases from family court to circuit court can be managed within existing appropriations. Additionally, this bill does not alter the responsibility for the Commission of Prosecution Coordination, and therefore, will have no expenditure impact for the commission.

Further, this bill may result in a shift in cases from DJJ to CID. This bill may impact the workload of DJJ and CID due to the potential shift in cases between the two agencies and may impact Corrections and PPP due to a potential increase in incarcerations. CID anticipates being able to manage any impact to expenses due to this bill within existing appropriations. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, of which \$36,553 was state funded.

The fiscal impact for Corrections, PPP, and DJJ is pending, contingent upon a response from these agencies.

State Revenue

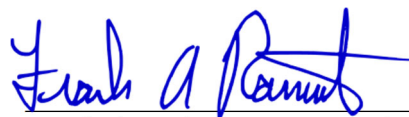
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



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