



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. 0110 Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject: Air Quality
Requestor: Senate Medical Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Griffith
Impact Date: January 16, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill prohibits the intentional emission of air contaminants within the borders of the state with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of sunlight.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) anticipates that the number of complaints, concerns, and requests for monitoring and sampling will increase based upon provisions of the bill. DES further indicates that expenses of the department will increase by \$477,100 in FY 2025-26 if the bill is implemented. This includes \$227,100 in recurring expenses for 1.0 FTE to field complaints and perform investigations and for operating expenses for equipment and supplies. Nonrecurring expenses are expected to total \$250,000 for equipment to monitor and sample for contaminants DES will request a General Fund appropriation increase to cover these expenses.

Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in circuit court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial. Additionally, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the Attorney General's Office since the agency can manage the responsibilities of the bill within the normal course of business.

As this bill creates new offenses, this may result in a change to General Fund, Other Funds and local fine revenue. However, as the number of such offenses and the resulting fines and fees that might occur in a given year is unknown, the revenue impact is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill prohibits the intentional emission of air contaminants within the borders of the state with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of sunlight.

Department of Environmental Services. Based on data from states with similar laws, DES anticipates that the number of complaints, concerns, and requests for monitoring and sampling will increase based upon the provisions of the bill. DES further indicates that the bill will

increase expenses of the department by approximately \$447,100 in FY 2025-26. Of this amount, \$97,100, including salary and fringe, is for 1.0 FTE to field complaints and perform investigations. Additionally, recurring operating expenses are expected to total \$130,100, and nonrecurring expenses are expected to total \$250,000 for equipment to monitor and sample for contaminants. Expenses will decrease to \$227,100 beginning in FY 2026-27. DES will request a General Fund appropriation increase for these expenditures.

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

Attorney General's Office. This bill gives the Attorney General's Office the authority to bring an action to enforce the provisions of the bill. The Attorney General's Office indicates that the responsibilities in the bill can be managed within the normal course of business. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

State Revenue

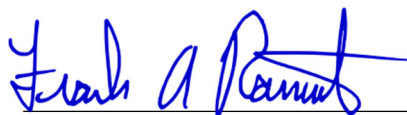
This bill prohibits the intentional emission of air contaminants within the borders of the state with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of sunlight. This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result a change to General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill prohibits the intentional emission of air contaminants within the borders of the state with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of sunlight. This bill may result in a change 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 change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director