

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. 0168 Introduced on January 14, 2025

Subject: Concealed Weapon Permit Program

Requestor: Senate Judiciary

RFA Analyst(s): Gardner

Impact Date: February 18, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires concealable weapon permits to be automatically renewed for permit holders under certain circumstances and waives the \$50 renewal fee. The bill also revises certain interstate reciprocity provisions.

The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) reports that implementation of the bill will require the agency to hire additional staff and incur additional operating costs. This will result in a non-recurring expense of \$24,000 in FY 2025-26 and recurring expenditure impact of \$468,280 beginning in FY 2025-26 and. Additionally, SLED indicates there will be no revenue impact because they do not currently charge a fee to renew concealable weapons permit.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025 State Expenditure

This bill requires a concealable weapon permit to be automatically renewed for a permit holder prior to the permit's expiration date when the holder has a valid South Carolina driver's license and passes a state and federal background check. Satisfying these provisions also waives the \$50 renewal fee. Permits not automatically renewed may be renewed at no cost upon completion of an application and presentation of appropriate credentials. In addition, the bill provides that SLED is not required to send notice to a concealable weapon permit holder whose license will automatically be renewed. The bill also revises certain interstate reciprocity provisions.

This bill requires SLED to automatically renew concealable weapon permits, which will require the agency to hire additional staff to perform related quality control monitoring. These additional staff members include one program coordinator and seven program assistants. The total recurring personnel cost will be \$460,280, \$311,000 for salary and \$149,280 for fringe, and the recurring operational cost will be \$8,000 for training/travel expenses beginning in FY 2025-26. SLED anticipates the total non-recurring cost will be \$24,000 for computer equipment in FY 2025-26. The agency anticipates requesting a General Fund appropriations increase to cover these expenses.

State Revenue

This bill requires concealable weapon permits to be automatically renewed for permit holders under certain circumstances and waives the \$50 renewal fee. SLED indicates there will be no revenue impact because they do not currently charge a fee to renew concealable weapons permit.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director