



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3209 Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author: Bernstein
Subject: SC Child Abuse Response Protocol Act
Requestor: House Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Gallagher, Gardner, Payne, Wren
Impact Date: March 29, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers to develop the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol (protocol), which will be annually reviewed and updated as needed by an advisory council of relevant stakeholders. Based on a previous response provided to Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) from the Department of Children’s Advocacy, this bill will increase the department’s General Fund expenditures by \$9,000 beginning in FY 2021-22, to compensate an existing employee for assuming additional duties related to maintaining and updating the protocol.

This bill requires 13 relevant stakeholders to serve as members of the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee. Based on previous responses provided to RFA, we anticipate this bill will have no impact on the Department of Social Services’ (DSS), the Judicial Department’s, the Department of Public Safety’s (DPS), the South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency’s (SLED), local law enforcement’s or local school district’s expenditures because any travel expenses associated with attending the advisory committee can be managed within existing budgets.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2020

State Expenditure

This bill requires the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers to develop the protocol. Once the protocol is developed it is to be made publicly available and must be reviewed annually and updated as needed by the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee, which will serve as an advisory council of 13 relevant stakeholders appointed by the Governor.

Department of Children’s Advocacy. This bill requires the Department of Children’s Advocacy to maintain the protocol and the advisory committee’s updates to the protocol. Further, the department is tasked with providing support staff for committee meetings. Based on a previous response provided by the department to RFA, this bill will result in an increase in administrative duties that can be absorbed by an existing employee. This would result in a recurring General Fund expenditure of \$9,000 beginning in FY 2021-22, to compensate the existing employee 15 percent of their current salary, including employer contributions, for assuming these additional duties.

Department of Social Services. This bill requires DSS to provide a representative to serve on the advisory committee. In a previous response submitted to RFA, DSS indicated that any travel expenses associated with attending council meetings can be managed within their current budget. Therefore, we anticipate this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

Judicial Department. This bill requires a multidisciplinary team to follow the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol Act as developed by the South Carolina Children’s Justice Act Task Force and the South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers. At least one member of this advisory council must be from a county solicitor’s office. In a previous response submitted to RFA, Judicial indicated the bill does not require the department to perform activities outside of the scope of its normal course of business. As such, we anticipate there will be no impact on the department’s expenditures.

Department of Public Safety. This bill requires DPS to provide a representative to serve on the advisory committee. In a previous response to RFA, DPS indicated that any travel expenses associated with attending council meetings can be managed within their current budget. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency. This bill requires an individual from state law enforcement to serve as a representative on the advisory committee. In a previous response submitted to RFA, SLED indicated that this bill requires the agency to perform activities that are conducted in the normal course of business. As such, the bill will not have an impact on the agency’s expenditures.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

Local School Districts. This bill requires one individual from a school district to serve on the advisory committee known as the Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee. In a previous response submitted to RFA, the State Department of Education indicated that any travel expenses for meetings can be managed within the existing budget of the school district. Therefore, we anticipate this bill will have no expenditure impact on local school districts.

Local Law Enforcement. This bill requires that at least one member of the advisory council be from state or county law enforcement. Based on a previous response received by RFA from counties as well as the South Carolina Municipal Association, we anticipate this bill will have no impact on local law enforcement expenditures because any travel costs associated with the advisory council can be managed within existing budgets.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director