



**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.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 4294    Introduced on April 6, 2023  
**Author:** Connell  
**Subject:** Millage Increases  
**Requestor:** House Ways and Means  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Miller  
**Impact Date:** March 5, 2024

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill permits a county council to exceed the millage rate increase limitations, pursuant to §6-1-320, to support a fire protection district. The county must have a population of seventy thousand or less and not have a full-time fire department that is fully supported by the local applicable fire millage. There are twenty-eight counties within the state with a population of less than seventy thousand according to the United States Census Bureau's 2023 population estimates. This bill may result in an increase in local property tax revenue, depending upon whether a county increases its millage above the millage rate increase limitations to support a fire district.

For reference, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted the twenty-eight counties that have a population of seventy-thousand or less to determine whether these counties met the requirements to increase their millage and whether the county would consider this. We received a response from Greenwood. Greenwood stated it had multiple fire districts and a blended fire service that included full time/paid and volunteer firefighters and that the fire districts were supported by an assessed fire fee. Therefore, they do not believe the bill applies to Greenwood.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on April 6, 2023**

#### **State Expenditure**

N/A

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

#### **Local Revenue**

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applicable fire millage. There are twenty-eight counties within the state with a population of less than seventy thousand according to the United States Census Bureau’s 2023 population estimates. The following provides a list of these counties and their respective population estimates.

<b>County</b>	<b>Population Estimate</b>
Allendale	7,579
McCormick	9,764
Bamberg	12,908
Calhoun	14,179
Lee	16,153
Hampton	18,113
Saluda	18,938
Barnwell	20,414
Fairfield	20,455
Abbeville	24,356
Marlboro	26,039
Union	26,752
Edgefield	26,932
Dillon	27,738
Marion	28,450
Williamsburg	30,058
Clarendon	30,913
Chester	31,931
Jasper	32,039
Newberry	38,247
Colleton	38,599
Chesterfield	43,683
Cherokee	56,121
Darlington	62,398
Georgetown	64,722
Kershaw	67,751
Laurens	67,965
Greenwood	69,267

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director