



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. 4611 Introduced on January 9, 2024
Author: Hixon
Subject: Unlawful Removal of Electric Dog Control Devices
Requestor: House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: January 17, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates a misdemeanor offense for intentionally removing or destroying an electronic collar placed on a dog by its owner and establishes a penalty schedule that includes fines or imprisonment.

This bill will have no state expenditure impact. Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in summary and general sessions court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Also, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports the bill requires the department to perform activities that will be conducted in the normal course of agency business.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates that this bill may result in an increase in local expenditures due to a potential increase in the local prison population resulting from the newly created misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 days or a fine of not more than \$500. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year is unknown, the potential increase in the local prison population and local expenditure is undetermined.

As this bill creates new a offense, this may result in an increase of 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 9, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill creates a new misdemeanor offense for intentionally removing or destroying an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner. This offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 10 days for a first offense and a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days for a second or subsequent offense.

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

Additionally, DNR's law enforcement officer (LEO)/game warden has the authority to respond and investigate any complaint that a dog's electronic collar was illegally removed. The agency anticipates this responsibility will be managed within the normal course of agency business, and therefore, have an expenditure impact on the agency.

State Revenue

This bill may result in an increase 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 an undetermined increase to General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

RFA anticipates that this bill may result in an increase in local expenditures due to a potential increase in the local jail population resulting from the newly created misdemeanor. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year is unknown, the potential increase in the local jail population and local expenditure is undetermined.

Local Revenue

This bill may result in an increase 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 an undetermined increase to local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director