

SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT (803)734-3780 • RFA.SC.GOV/IMPACTS

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Bill Number: H. 3831 Introduced on January 26, 2023

Author: Hardee Subject: Alimony

Requestor: House Judiciary

RFA Analyst(s): Gardner

Impact Date: April 19, 2023

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill modifies alimony payments from period alimony payments to payments made for a period of one year for every three years of marriage. This new alimony payment requirement will terminate and may be modified under certain circumstances.

Judicial reports the bill may reduce the number of alimony motions hearings in family court, which would allow the court to hear other actions. Therefore, this bill will result in no expenditure impact. However, a reduction in the number of alimony motions hearings may result in a decrease in family court fees. As there are no data to determine the reduction of alimony motions hearings that may occur, the potential decrease in General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 26, 2023 State Expenditure

This bill modifies provisions related to the payment of alimony. Currently periodic alimony is paid but terminates on the remarriage or continued cohabitation of the supported spouse or death of either spouse. This bill modifies current alimony requirements to specify alimony may be paid for a period of one year for every three years of marriage. This period will terminate upon the cohabitation of the supported spouse, the achievement of retirement age as defined by the Social Security Act, or the death of either spouse. The new schedule for the payment of alimony may be terminated or modified upon changed circumstances in the future.

Judicial reports that the bill, which will limit periodic alimony awarded by a family court, may reduce the number of motions hearings regarding alimony payments. As such, the bill will have no expenditure impact on Judicial.

State Revenue

This bill may result in a reduction in the number of alimony motions hearings in family courts. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. However, as there are no data to determine the number of alimony motions hearings that may occur, the amount of the decrease in General Fund and Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill may result in a reduction in the number of alimony motions hearings in family courts. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. However, as there are no data to determine the number of alimony motions hearings that may occur, the amount of the decrease in local revenue is undetermined.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director