



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3448
Author: Hardee
Requestor: House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs
Date: March 5, 2015
Subject: Air Ambulance Affordability Act
RFA Analyst(s): Stein, Fulmer

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	N/A	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill is expected to have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. The bill requires health insurance issuers to provide coverage for air ambulance services.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

House Bill 3448 establishes the Air Ambulance Affordability Act. The bill provides that all aircraft operating as an air ambulance must be permitted by the Department of Health & Environmental Control and specifies requirements for this permit. The bill also requires health insurers to provide coverage for air ambulance transportation to a medical facility for emergency treatment when a physician considers it a medical necessity.

Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC). The Department indicates that this bill would have no impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. The agency already permits air ambulances and EMS personnel inspect all new or replacement aircraft before issuing a new permit. DHEC does not collect a permit fee for ground or air ambulances.

Public Employee Benefit Authority. The agency indicates that this bill would have no impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds. This bill directs that the service is paid at a rate higher than the Medicare rate plus fifteen percent. The State Health Plan currently covers air ambulance services at a rate higher than the Medicare rate plus fifteen percent.

Department of Insurance. The Department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the agency, the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Rainwater", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director