



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0209
 Author: Sheheen
 Requestor: Senate Judiciary
 Date: February 13, 2015
 Subject: Mental Health Court Program
 RFA Analyst(s): Gardner and Shealy

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

All agencies surveyed indicated that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal, or Other Funds.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

Senate Bill 209 adds Chapter 31 to establish a Mental Health Court Program. The bill provides for a system that diverts mentally ill offenders to appropriate treatment programs rather than incarceration. Additionally, the bill contains provisions that determine an offender's eligibility for Mental Health Court and mandates that each solicitor establish such a program. Further, the bill requires solicitors accepting state funding for the program to establish it within one hundred eighty (180) days.

Department of Mental Health. There will be no fiscal impact to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) from the passage of this legislation. DMH currently provides services to eligible clients in the existing Mental Health Courts in Charleston, Greenville, and Richland counties through its Community Mental Health Services Division and utilizes Medicaid and self-pay billing methods. Additional eligible clients who may present at newly established Mental Health Courts in the state will access services in accordance with this same model.

Judicial Department. The Judicial Department reports that the bill allows solicitors to create mental health court programs using state funds. As the bill is written, the role of the court is not detailed, so it is unknown what overall impact, if any, this bill will have on the General Fund. Provided new Mental Health Courts are operated in the same manner as the existing Mental Health courts are through the Probate Courts, there should be no additional cost to Judicial Department General Funds. There is no cost to the agency's Federal Funds or Other Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director