



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0519
 Author: Campsen
 Requestor: Senate Finance
 Date: April 2, 2015
 Subject: Conservation Bank Reauthorization and Wetlands Conservation Act
 RFA Analyst(s): Wren and Stein

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	N/A
Other and Federal	See below	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	(\$2,336,241)	N/A
Other and Federal	\$2,336,241	N/A
Local Expenditure	N/A	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds. However, Other Fund expenditures will be impacted since this bill authorizes the South Carolina Conservation Bank Trust Fund (Trust) to receive additional Other Funds revenue from the State deed recording fee and the Department of Natural Resources to receive a portion of those additional funds from the Trust.

This bill would reallocate \$2,336,241 in revenue from the General Fund to Other Funds of the Trust in FY 2015-16. There would be no revenue impact on Federal Funds.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

Senate Bill 519 amends Section 48-59-70 of the South Carolina Conservation Bank Act by authorizing the Trust to include isolated wetlands, Carolina Bays, and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources in their grant award criteria. The bill authorizes up to eight and one-third percent of the funds in the Trust for maintenance projects on WMA lands. The bill also provides that when the General Assembly reduces agency appropriations to less than what was appropriated in the previous year, the State deed recording fees transferred to the Conservation Bank shall be decreased by twice the average percentage reduction applied to other agencies.

SC Conservation Bank. The Conservation Bank, which receives no General Fund appropriations, reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the agency's operations or Federal Funds. As a result of receiving an additional five cents from the one dollar and thirty cent State deed recording fee, the agency would be seeking increased spending authorization in Other (Restricted) Funds. The agency also indicates that without a precise definition of what constitutes an "isolated wetland" in South Carolina, the Trust may become involved in disputes over acreage that should not qualify for program support.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The department reports that this bill authorizes DNR to compete for grants (Other Funds) offered by the SC Conservation Bank Trust. Therefore, the department would be seeking increased spending authorization after any such grants are awarded. Otherwise this bill would have no expenditure impact on the agency, the General Fund, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

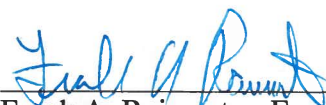
This bill amends Section 12-24-95 by increasing the amount of the deed recording fee allocated to the South Carolina Conservation Bank Trust Fund (Trust) from twenty-five cents to thirty cents. This reduces the current seventy-five cent allocation to the General Fund to seventy cents in FY 2015-16. The current allocations credited to the Heritage Land Trust Fund and the South Carolina Housing Trust Fund are not affected. Based on revenue data, \$11,341,147 in state deed recording fees was credited to the Trust and \$35,383,672 was credited to the General Fund in FY 2013-14. Since this bill reallocates five cents of the deed recording fee from the General Fund to the Trust, we estimate Other Funds revenue of the Trust will increase by \$2,336,241, and General Fund revenue will be reduced by \$2,336,241 in FY 2015-16.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director