



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** H. 3125 Amended by the House of Representatives on March 28, 2017  
**Author:** McEachern  
**Subject:** Temporary Placement of Children  
**Requestor:** Senate General  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Shuford  
**Impact Date:** April 14, 2017

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
<b>State Revenue</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditure</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill would not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds since the outlined responsibilities in the bill codify best practices adopted and implemented by the agency for safety placement plans and for child and family plans.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Amended by the House of Representatives on March 28, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to place temporarily a child with a relative or other person willing to serve as an interim placement for the child during the investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. DSS shall develop and execute a safety plan within seventy-two hours of the decision for placement. Before placing a child, DSS shall interview and visit the relatives for suitability, secure a written statement from the relatives attesting that no adult or child in the home has a history of child abuse or neglect or other criminal history, and confirm the information collected within five days by checking the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect and other department and law enforcement records.

Further, DSS shall immediately coordinate services to ensure the safety and welfare of minor children when a case is indicated but not being brought before the family court for disposition. No later than forty-five days after a case decision, DSS shall develop a child and family plan for the provision of family preservation services. The plan must be prepared, to the extent possible, with the participation of the parents, custodian or guardian of the child, and any other agency

providing services. If a child is placed out of the home pursuant to a child and family plan, DSS must perform the same procedures required pursuant to a safety plan as summarized previously.

**Department of Social Services.** The department indicates that this bill codifies best practices adopted by the agency for safety placement plans in the case of child abuse or neglect and for child and family plans, which provide family preservation services when a case is not being brought before the family court for disposition. A workgroup of child welfare stakeholders developed these best practices over the past two years. Since DSS has adopted and is complying with the outlined responsibilities, the bill would not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director