



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** S. 0080 Introduced on January 10, 2017  
**Author:** Campbell  
**Subject:** Children’s Advocacy Centers  
**Requestor:** Senate General  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Gardner and Wren  
**Impact Date:** February 1, 2017

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000
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>	Undetermined	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill will have a recurring \$100,000 expenditure impact on the General Fund and no expenditure impact on Federal Funds or Other Funds. Since no responses were received from surveyed counties, the expenditure impact on county governments is undetermined.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on January 10, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

This bill requires that Children’s Advocacy Center records released to the Department of Social Services (DSS) during investigations of child abuse or neglect or the provision of treatment services to children or their families be accompanied by an order of protection issued by a magistrate or family court judge to ensure confidentiality of the records. The purpose of the order is to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense. The order may include stipulations requiring a court order for the reproduction or unsealing of records; establishing specific terms and conditions for the viewing of records; sealing of records; extending applicability of the order to all parties, their counsel, and any agency or representative of a party; and requiring the return of all records released under the order of protection to the court upon completion of the matter causing production of the records. The bill also provides that a person failing to obey an order of protection shall be found in contempt of court.

**Department of Social Services.** The department estimates that the implementation of this bill would have a recurring expenditure impact of approximately \$100,000 in General Funds. Each

order of protection would require a minimum of an hour of staff time to draft the order, obtain a signature from a judge on the order and file it with the clerk's office. Last year, 2,078 forensic interviews were performed by Child Advocacy Centers. The department estimates a minimum of one hour would be required to obtain a protective order and file it with the clerk's office at an hourly rate of \$41.53. The estimated personnel cost is \$86,299. Due to current caseloads, additional work cannot be completed by the department's current staff. The department anticipates using temporary hourly or temporary grant positions to complete the work. The department has also estimated \$13,701 in travel, postage, and other related expenses.

**Judicial Department.** The bill requires a magistrate or family court order of protection to accompany Children's Advocacy Center records released to the Department of Social Services during child abuse or neglect investigations or the provision of treatment services to children or their families. The department reports that it will manage the cost of any additional orders resulting from the bill and any increase in the number of cases on the family court docket within current resources.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

This bill requires that records released to DSS must be accompanied by an order of protection issued by a magistrate or family court judge to ensure confidentiality of the records. The order may make any order as justice requires, which may include that the records may not be reproduced except as authorized by court order, shall be sealed and only opened by court order, and must be returned to the court upon completion of the matter that caused the production of the records. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-three county governments regarding the expenditure impact of this bill and received no responses. Since no responses were received from the surveyed counties, the expenditure impact on county governments is undetermined.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director