



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	S. 0545	Introduced on February 20, 2019
Author:	Alexander	
Subject:	Property Assessment of Merchants and Other Businesses	
Requestor:	Senate Finance	
RFA Analyst(s):	Miller	
Impact Date:	January 13, 2020	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill would have no impact on the Department of Revenue (DOR), as it is currently handling some business personal property (BPP) assessment filings and can handle the additional filings within existing appropriations.

This bill may have an undetermined savings on local expenditures because shifting all responsibility for BPP assessment filings from the county auditors to DOR would result in a varying amount of savings for some counties.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 20, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill classifies business personal property (BPP) as merchant's property for tax assessment purposes, which places it under the jurisdiction of DOR. Currently, the collection of BPP filings are split between DOR and the counties.

This bill will result in an increase in filings with DOR. DOR is able to manage the additional filings with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact for DOR.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill places all BPP assessment filings under the jurisdiction of DOR. Currently, jurisdiction is split between counties and DOR and five counties contract with DOR to handle all BPP filings.

As the counties would no longer be responsible for assessing this property, there would be an expenditure savings. Ten counties responded to our previous inquiry about this shift in responsibilities. Greenville County and Oconee County would not be impacted by this bill as they currently have the department assessing their business personal property. Anderson and Charleston anticipate savings of \$15,000 and \$10,000 respectively associated with postage, printing, and labor. Chester County, Dillon County, Lexington County, Richland County, Spartanburg County, and Williamsburg County, expected savings of less than \$1,000, if any,

stemming from savings on postage and mailings. Berkeley County would also experience minimal savings if the two BPP appraisers remain on staff to assist local businesses with the filings. Overall, the local expenditure savings statewide is undetermined as the impact varies from county to county.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director