



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H.3509	Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author:	Fry	
Subject:	Extension of Foster Care	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Payne and Gardner	
Impact Date:	February 19, 2021	Updated for Additional Agency Response

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will increase the General Fund expenditures of DSS by \$7,145,388 and Federal Funds expenditures by \$4,783,313, for a total of \$11,928,701 by FY 2023-24 to extend foster care programs for individuals under the age of twenty-one who are, or were, in the legal custody of DSS on their eighteenth birthday. This estimate includes funds to provide an additional 33 FTEs, upgrades and maintenance to their Child Welfare Information System (CAPPS), and to provide direct client payments to eligible individuals. DSS estimates the provisions of this bill will not be fully implemented until FY 2023-24 as more foster children reach the age of eighteen and become eligible for this program.

The Judicial Department indicates the bill would increase family court caseloads, though there is no data available with which to estimate the number of filings, hearings, or trials that may result. The department expects to manage any additional costs associated with increased caseloads using existing General Fund resources.

The Administrative Law Court indicates this bill does not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

This fiscal impact has been updated for additional agency responses.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response

Introduced on January 12, 2021 State

Expenditure

This bill establishes the procedures for an extended foster care program for individuals under the age of twenty-one who are, or were, in the legal custody of DSS on their eighteenth birthday. To be eligible, an individual must also be enrolled in a post-secondary, vocational, or employment barrier educational program, employed at least eighty hours a week, or incapable of performing one of these activities due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation. An individual who wishes to participate in the foster care extension program may authorize such in writing with DSS prior to their eighteenth birthday, at which time the department shall begin the process to have the

placement approved by the family court.

DSS indicates they will require an additional 33 FTEs to perform the duties enumerated in this bill. Of the 33 total FTEs, 21 will be case managers, 4 will be case aides, 4 will be case manager supervisors, 1 program coordinator, 1 administrative review coordinator, 1 Title IV-E eligibility coordinator, and 1 trainer. DSS estimates these additional FTEs will increase the agency's expenditures by a total of \$1,331,136, of which \$1,005,894 will be General Fund expenditures, and \$325,242 will be Federal Funds expenditures. Additionally, DSS anticipates they will require modifications to their Child Welfare Information System (CAPPS) and ongoing maintenance to comply with the provisions of this bill. DSS estimates these modifications and ongoing maintenance activities will increase expenditures \$15,000 annually by FY2023-24, which is when the extended foster care program is expected to be fully implemented. DSS indicates these system expenditures would be funded with \$12,000 from the General Fund, and \$3,000 from Federal Funds. Additionally, DSS estimates this bill will increase their annual expenditures by a total of \$10,582,565 to provide direct client payments to eligible individuals. DSS indicates these payments include supervised independent living per diems, payments through the therapeutic foster care program, and direct stipends to individuals remaining in the extended foster care program. Of this total expenditure increase for payments, DSS estimates \$6,127,494 will be General Fund expenditures, and \$4,455,071 will be Federal Funds expenditures.

Judicial Department. This bill provides extended foster care program for certain eligible children, extends the family court's jurisdiction, and provides for a voluntary placement agreement. In addition, it provides that a summons, petition, and supplemental report must be served on the child and include notice of the procedures to request counsel; however, no responsive pleading is required. The bill requires that family courts must, within 60 days, have a hearing and make findings, and they must continue to review the child's status annually. The department indicates the bill would increase family court caseloads, though there is no data available with which to estimate the number of filings, hearings, or trials that may result. The department expects to manage any additional costs associated with increased caseloads using existing General Fund resources.

Administrative Law Court. The agency indicates this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. Any expenses associated with the enactment of the bill can be managed within current appropriations of the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

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The fiscal impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon responses from DSS and the Administrative Law Court.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director