



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. 5000	Introduced on February 22, 2022
Author:	Matthews	
Subject:	Original Birth Certificates	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Griffith	
Impact Date:	March 15, 2022	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows an adult who was born and adopted in South Carolina to receive a copy of his original sealed birth certificate, upon written request, if the biological parent has consented or is deceased.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) issues and holds all birth certificates and indicates that the agency is not staffed to handle a large increase in the number of potential requests for birth certificates. Staffing needs are undetermined at this time and will depend on the timing of enactment of the bill and the number of additional requests. However, the agency anticipates that the fees charged for these requests will offset any expenses for additional staff.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 22, 2022

State Expenditure

This bill allows an adult who was born and adopted in South Carolina to receive a copy of his original sealed birth certificate, upon written request, if the biological parent has consented or is deceased. The provisions of the bill apply regardless of the date that the adoption was finalized.

DHEC issues and holds all birth certificates in the state and indicates that each request for a sealed birth certificate takes between forty-five and sixty minutes to process. DHEC indicates there are approximately 20,000 adoption records that will apply to the provisions of this bill. Further, DHEC indicates that the agency is not adequately staffed to handle a large increase in the number of potential requests. Staffing needs are undetermined at this time and will depend on the timing of enactment of the bill and the number of additional requests. However, the agency anticipates that the fees charged for these requests will offset any expenses for additional staff.

State Revenue

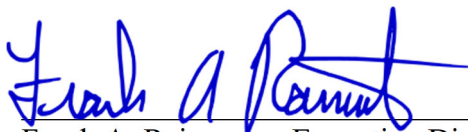
DHEC will charge \$27 per sealed birth certificate request, which includes a search fee and a special filing fee for handling a sealed file. DHEC anticipates that revenue from these fees will be used to offset the increase in staffing needs as a result of additional requests.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director