



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. 3951	Introduced on February 14, 2023
Author:	Haddon	
Subject:	Working Agricultural Lands Preservation	
Requestor:	House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	March 1, 2023	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, defines terms, outlines the program criteria, and creates a committee to administer the program. The committee will identify and provide permanent protection to significant working farmland properties whose continued availability to commercial agricultural businesses is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector and to create a fund for qualifying projects under this program. This bill also establishes the Working Farmland Protection Program Fund. The fund's purpose is to compliment agricultural projects funded by the South Carolina Conservation Bank and cooperating entities by creating a matching grant payment for qualified projects.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Conservation Bank, the House of Representatives, and the Senate anticipate that this bill will have minimal impact that will be managed within existing staff and appropriations.

The fiscal impact of the bill on the Governor's Office is pending, contingent upon a response from the office.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 14, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill establishes the Working Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, defines terms, outlines the program criteria, and creates a committee to administer the program. The committee will identify and provide permanent protection to significant working farmland properties whose continued availability to commercial agricultural businesses is essential to the long-term future of the economic sector and to create a fund for qualifying projects under this program.

The committee will consist of the following members:

1. The commissioner of Agriculture who serves as the chairman of the committee;
2. Two members designated by the Governor;
3. Two members designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
4. Two members designated by the President of the Senate.
5. The chairman of the South Carolina Conservation Bank serves as an ex officio member.

Office of the Governor. The fiscal impact of the bill on the Governor's Office is pending, contingent upon a response from the office.

Department of Agriculture. The Commissioner of the DA will serve as the chairman of the committee. The DA anticipates that this bill will have minimal impact that will be managed within existing staff and appropriations.

Conservation Bank. This bill establishes the Working Farmland Protection Program Fund. The fund's purpose is to compliment agricultural projects funded by the South Carolina Conservation Bank and cooperating entities by creating a matching grant payment for qualified projects. Under this bill, the fund will be housed in the Conservation Bank as a separate line item in the budget. The Conservation Bank anticipates that this bill will have minimal impact that will be managed within existing staff and appropriations.

House of Representatives and Senate. This committee would have two members appointed by the House and two members appointed by the Senate, for a total of four members appointed by the bodies. Any non-legislative member appointees will receive per diem and subsistence for each meeting, pursuant to proviso, and mileage of \$0.655 per mile for each meeting. In the case that any of these committee members are also House or Senate members, they would not be entitled to any additional per diem, subsistence, or mileage reimbursements when this committee meets on session days. Both the House and the Senate anticipate, absent a significant number of committee meetings, that these additional expenses can be managed within existing appropriations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director