



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. 4376	Introduced on April 26, 2023
Author:	B.J. Cox	
Subject:	Veterans, unclaimed remains	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	January 18, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires coroners to release the human remains that have been identified and determined to be those of an unclaimed veteran to a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary for disposition pursuant to Chapter 12, Title 25.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) since the bill does not alter the duties or responsibilities of the agency.

This bill may impact the counties' local coroners' offices. RFA contacted all forty-six counties and received responses from seven. Sumter, Fairfield, Dorchester, Horry, and Charleston all responded that they anticipate no local expenditure impact due to this bill as, while the county will incur some costs to disposition the remains, the county either currently practices these protocols for disposition of unclaimed remains or has funds budgeted to cover cremations and expenses associated with unclaimed remains. Union County estimates for the cost of cremation and necessary paperwork and an additional estimated cost of \$200 above the normally designated \$500 for indigent disposition of cremation. Florence County noted that there are currently two unidentified remains in their custody, otherwise, there are no unclaimed veterans' remains in their custody.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on April 26, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill requires coroners to release the human remains that have been identified and determined to be those of an unclaimed veteran to a funeral home, funeral establishment, or mortuary for disposition pursuant to Chapter 12, Title 25. This bill will have no expenditure impact on DVA since the bill does not alter the duties or responsibilities of the agency.

State Revenue

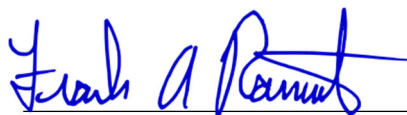
N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill may impact the counties' local coroners' offices. RFA contacted all forty-six counties and received responses from seven counties. The counties of Sumter, Fairfield, Dorchester, and Charleston all responded that they anticipate no impact as, while the county will incur some costs to disposition the remains, the county either currently practices these protocols for disposition of unclaimed remains or has funds budgeted to cover cremations and expenses associated with unclaimed remains. Horry County also anticipates being able to manage expenses due to this bill. Horry has one of the highest populations of veterans and estimates an average of one occurrence per month. The estimated cost per occurrence is \$668, \$400 for cremation, \$250 for transportation, and \$18 for death certificates. Additionally, Union County estimates that this would be similar to the case of an indigent person where the county incurs the cost of disposition. The county estimates a cost of \$500 per occurrence for the cost of cremation and necessary paperwork. To date, Union reports that all veteran remains have been claimed. However, in the instance of an unclaimed veteran, there would be an additional estimated cost of \$200 for burial. Florence County reported it had two unidentified remains but no other potential unclaimed veterans in their custody.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director