



**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.*

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**Bill Number:** S. 0147    Introduced on January 10, 2023  
**Author:** Shealy  
**Subject:** Address Confidentiality and Advocate Privilege  
**Requestor:** Senate Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Boggs  
**Impact Date:** February 15, 2023

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill establishes the address confidentiality program to allow victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, harassment, or sexual offenses to use a designated address rather than their residential address. Further, this bill designates that the program is to be administered by the Office of the Attorney General and provides information on the process through which a person may participate in the program. Additionally, this bill requires nonprofit victim assistance organizations that serve such victims to protect the confidentiality and privacy of clients. Lastly, this bill prohibits employees or volunteers of such organizations from testifying in proceedings about communications made by a client or records kept while providing client services.

Judicial, the Commission on Indigent Defense (CID), and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (CPC) anticipate that this bill will have no fiscal impact as victim information is already maintained in a method unavailable to the public. Under this bill, when a victim enters the program, they will no longer store the victim's home address but instead the address designated by the Attorney General's Office.

This bill will increase expenses for the Attorney General by \$267,500 beginning in FY 2023-24 for program administrative staff and program operating expenses. This includes salary and fringe for 2.5 FTEs totaling \$187,500. In addition, the Attorney General reports that costs for the additional office space and equipment are expected to total \$89,000. The agency indicates that additional General Fund appropriations will be requested to cover these expenses.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 10, 2023**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill establishes the address confidentiality program to allow victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, harassment, or sexual offenses to use a designated address rather than their residential address. Further, this bill designates that the program is to be administered by the Attorney General and provides information on the process through which a person may participate in the program. Additionally, this bill requires nonprofit victim assistance organizations that serve such victims to protect the confidentiality and privacy of clients. Lastly,

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**Office of the Attorney General.** The Attorney General will be responsible for the administration of this program, and the agency indicates additional staff and office equipment will be required. The Attorney General anticipates needing 2.5 FTEs. An additional 1.0 FTEs for a program coordinator to develop and oversee the program at an annual cost of \$84,000, 1.0 FTEs for an administrative coordinator to handle mail and online applications with an annual salary and fringe of \$63,000, and 0.5 FTEs for an administrative coordinator to vet those recommended to train as certified application assistants with annual salary and fringe of \$31,500. In addition, the agency reports that they would need added office space and materials to run the program. This would include staff supplies as well as postage, printing, and envelopes to effectively execute the program for qualifying victims across South Carolina. Based on current costs and estimates from other agencies, the Attorney General reports that the estimated cost for office space and supplies will total \$89,000 annually. In total, this bill will increase expenses for the Attorney General by \$267,500 beginning in FY 2023-24. The agency indicates that additional General Fund appropriations will be requested to cover these expenses.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director