



# 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:** H. 3034 Introduced on January 14, 2025  
**Subject:** Fargo's, Hyco's, Rico's, Coba's, Wick's, and Mikka's Law  
**Requestor:** House Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Gardner  
**Impact Date:** March 11, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates Fargo's, Hyco's, Rico's, Coba's, Wick's, and Mikka's Law, which establishes additional unlawful acts against dogs or horses used by law enforcement and increases associated penalties.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of cases in circuit court and potentially the number of incarcerations, due to the newly created offenses, which may increase the workload of the court system and the Commission of Indigent Defense (CID), the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP), the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (CPC), and the Department of Corrections (Corrections). The potential increase in expenses for Judicial and each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations. The agencies anticipate that the potential increase in caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact of the caseload in court can be managed within existing appropriations. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or downstream expenses, these agencies will request an increase in General Fund appropriations. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) as this bill does not change the responsibility of the agency.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) surveyed the counties and contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) as to the potential expenditure impact of the bill and received a response from MASC, Dorchester County, Florence County, and Horry County. All report that any change in workload due to the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing staff and resources.

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court due to an increase in the caseload in court and the increased fine amounts within the enhanced penalties. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

## Explanation of Fiscal Impact

**Introduced on January 14, 2025**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill creates Fargo's, Hyco's, Rico's, Coba's, Wick's, and Mikka's Law, which makes it unlawful for a person to shoot a car when a dog or horse used by law enforcement is inside and makes it unlawful for a person to hit a dog or horse used by law enforcement while running from pursuit. The bill also increases the penalties associated with willful and malicious injury to or killing of such animal.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of cases in circuit court and potentially the number of incarcerations, due to the newly created offenses, which may increase the workload of the court system and CID, PPP, CPC, and Corrections. The potential increase in expenses for Judicial and each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations. The agencies anticipate that the potential increase in caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact of the caseload in circuit court can be managed within existing appropriations. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or downstream expenses, these agencies will request an increase in General Fund appropriations. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on SLED as this bill does not change the responsibility of the agency.

### **State Revenue**

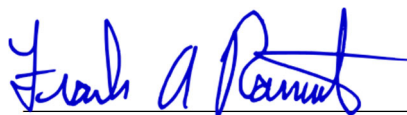
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### **Local Expenditure**

RFA surveyed the counties and contacted the MASC as to the potential expenditure impact of the bill and received a response from MASC, Dorchester County, Florence County, and Horry County. All report that any change in workload due to the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing staff and resources.

### **Local Revenue**

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court due to an increase in the caseload in court and the increased fine amounts within the enhanced penalties. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director