

## 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. 3049 Introduced on January 14, 2025

Subject: Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images

Act

Requestor: House Judiciary

RFA Analyst(s): Gardner

Impact Date: March 27, 2025

## **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill creates the Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act, which defines relevant terms and provides for a civil course of action against a person who intentionally discloses or threatens to disclose intimate images of a person without that person's consent.

Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in circuit court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in caseloads, Judicial may request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

## **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

## Introduced on January 14, 2025 State Expenditure

This bill creates the Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act, which defines relevant terms and provides for a civil course of action against a person who intentionally discloses or threatens to disclose intimate images of another without his consent. The bill also provides exceptions for liability under certain circumstances. A plaintiff may file a motion to seal with the initial pleading or any other motion to protect his identity. Prevailing plaintiffs may recover (1) the greater of economic and noneconomic damages proximately caused by the disclosure or threatened disclosure (including damages for emotional distress) or statutory damages not to exceed \$10,000 against each defendant found liable; (2) an amount equal to any monetary gain made by the defendant by the disclosure of the intimate image; (3) punitive damages, attorney's fees and costs; and (4) additional relief, including injunctive relief. The bill also establishes the time frames within which such actions may be brought.

Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in circuit court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in caseloads, Judicial may request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

**State Revenue** 

N/A

**Local Expenditure** 

N/A

**Local Revenue** 

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director