



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. 3115	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Birth Certificates	
Requestor:	House Ways and Means	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	May 1, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill waives the fees for up to 4 copies of birth certificates a year for persons who are verified to be in a homeless status by various agencies serving the homeless, any licensed attorney in the state, a public-school liaison, or a human services provider.

According to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), in FY 2023-24 12,376 persons received homeless services in South Carolina. The Department of Public Health (DPH) houses the state's Division of Vital Records, which issues birth certificates for births that occurred in South Carolina. DPH anticipates this bill will result in the need for additional vital records customer services representative FTE to handle additional customer volume in each of the 4 major suburban areas – Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, and Spartanburg and an increase in expenses. The expenditure impact for DPH is pending, contingent upon an additional response from the agency.

DPH anticipates, as these individuals are in a homeless status, they would likely go into DPH facilities to obtain these certificates. In-person requests would result in a loss of \$17 (expedited search fee) per birth certificate requested. Assuming all 12,376 individuals receive up to 4 free birth certificates a year could result in a fee revenue loss of up to \$842,000 annually. This does not take into consideration those individuals that are deemed homeless by other sources allowed by this bill. Therefore, this bill may result in a decrease in Other Funds revenue of up to \$842,000 beginning in FY 2025-26. This number could vary depending on the number of individuals requesting copies and the number of copies requested. DPH may request a fee increase for the cost of birth certificates to cover this loss of revenue.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill waives the fees for up to 4 copies of birth certificates a year for persons who are verified to be in a homeless status by various agencies serving the homeless, any licensed attorney in the state, a public-school liaison, or a human services provider.

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State Revenue

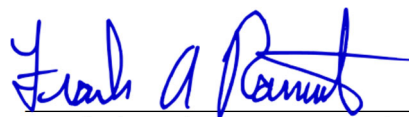
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Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director