



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. 3535	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	April 11, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act. This bill creates the offense of impeding, interfering with, threatening, or harassing a first responder engaged in their duties and provides penalties for persons who are found guilty of the offense.

Judicial anticipates this bill may result in an increase in the number of cases in circuit court, which may increase the workload of the court system. The potential increase will depend on the number of people who are currently engaging in conduct that will now be deemed contrary to the law and how vigorously the law will be enforced. Judicial anticipates that the increase in cases can be initially managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicated that if the increase in the caseload is significant, it will request additional General Fund appropriations.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) to determine the potential local expenditure impact of this bill. We received responses from Horry County and MASC. Horry does not anticipate any fiscal impact from this bill. Additionally, MASC anticipates this bill will have no impact on municipal courts.

RFA anticipates this bill may result in an increase in local expenditures due to a potential increase in the local prison population resulting from the newly created misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than sixty days and a fine of not more than \$500. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year is unknown, the potential increase in the local prison population and local expenditure is undetermined.

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result 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 establishes the HALO Act. This bill creates the offense of impeding, interfering with, threatening, or harassing a first responder engaged in their duties. A person who are found guilty of the offense is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined no more than \$500 and imprisoned no more than sixty days.

Judicial anticipates this bill may result in an increase in the number of cases in circuit court, which may increase the workload of the court system. The potential increase will depend on the number of people who are currently engaging in conduct that will now be deemed contrary to the law and how vigorously the law will be enforced. Judicial anticipates that the increase in cases can be initially managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicated that if the increase in the caseload is significant, it will request additional General Fund appropriations.

State Revenue

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result a change to General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director