



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

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. 3602	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Jaden's Law	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	April 15, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates “Jaden’s Law,” which provides directives for 911 dispatchers, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and other law-enforcement agencies, and emergency medical service (EMS) providers when responding to incidents involving boating accident victims. A driver of a vessel involved in a boating accident must be administered a breath test. A circuit solicitor must refer a case brought against a law enforcement officer involved in a boating accident investigation to the Attorney General’s Office.

DNR reports that passage of the bill, which requires installation of signage at the state's public boat landings, will result in one-time installation cost of approximately \$200,000 and an undetermined recurring maintenance cost. The department intends to request additional General Fund appropriations to manage the expenditure impact.

SLED and the Office of the Attorney General report this bill will have no expenditure impact because any increase in workload will be managed with existing staff and appropriations.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) surveyed the counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) as to the expenditure impact of the bill. Based on the responses received, we anticipate that passage of the bill will result in a minimal expenditure impact for counties and municipalities for these entities to train for the new directives and purchase breathe tests as needed.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill creates “Jaden’s Law,” which requires 911 dispatchers responding to a call involving an accident victim who has sustained injuries while on a body of water to ask specific questions of the caller and to direct officials with DNR to respond to the call. The bill also requires each law enforcement agency responding to a boating accident involving a deceased or unconscious victim to prepare a written incident report, secure the scene, conduct an immediate investigation, and, if needed, seek assistance from additional law-enforcement agencies. In cases involving a deceased or unconscious victim, DNR must obtain assistance from SLED when conducting the

investigation. A driver of a vessel involved in a boating accident must be administered a breath test, and the coroner must report the death of a boating accident victim to both DNR and SLED. All EMS providers involved in a boating accident response must report to DNR any instance in which a victim loses consciousness or life. The bill also requires DNR to provide all law enforcement agencies, EMS providers, and first responders with the physical address and GPS coordinates for all public boat landings and to provide dual-sided signage for boat landing entrances. A circuit solicitor must refer a case brought against a law enforcement officer involved in a boating accident investigation to the Attorney General's Office.

This bill requires DNR to place dual-sided signage at the entrance of each public boat landing in the state. The department anticipates a one-time cost of \$200,000 to install the signage and an undetermined recurring cost associated with sign maintenance. DNR also notes that this bill creates a liability to the department for the potential for damaged, removed, or stolen signs that may result in a delay in EMS services. The department intends to request additional General Fund appropriations to cover these costs.

SLED and the Office of the Attorney General report this bill will have no expenditure impact because any increase in workload will be managed with existing staff and appropriations.

State Revenue

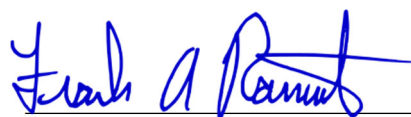
N/A

Local Expenditure

RFA surveyed the counties and MASC as to the expenditure impact of the bill and received responses from Florence County, Horry County, Oconee County, MASC. Florence County and Horry County indicated that it currently utilizes emergency dispatch protocols that meet the 911 dispatch requirements in the bill and that it notifies DNR of all incidents occurring on a body of water. MASC indicated that municipal 911 communication centers and municipal law enforcement agencies may need updated training as to the response protocols included in the bill. In addition, MASC noted that there may be an increase in costs associated with the purchase of breath tests to the extent municipalities do not currently administer such tests. Based on these responses, RFA anticipates that passage of the bill will result in a minimal expenditure impact that can be absorbed by the counties and municipalities.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director