

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. 4249 Introduced on March 27, 2025

Subject: Emergency Scene Management Requestor: House Education and Public Works

RFA Analyst(s): Griffith

Impact Date: April 11, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the driver of a vehicle to ensure that the vehicle is kept under control when approaching or passing a motor vehicle stopped on or near the right of way of a street or highway when the stopped vehicle is displaying flashing hazard lights. The driver must also yield right of way by making a lane change, if possible, and must maintain a safe speed for road conditions. The bill specifies that a person who fails to exercise control of a vehicle, yield the right of way, and maintain a safe speed for road conditions when approaching or passing a motor vehicle that is stopped on or near the right of way or a street or highway while displaying flashing hazard lights must be fined not less than \$300 nor more than \$500.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Public Safety (DPS) since the bill requires the department to perform activities that can be conducted in the normal course of business.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) since it does not operationally or fiscally impact the department.

This bill may result in an increase in the caseload in municipal and magistrates courts. Judicial provides support to these courts. Judicial anticipates that the potential increase in caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested.

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, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in a change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 27, 2025 State Expenditure

This bill requires the driver of a vehicle to ensure that the vehicle is kept under control when approaching or passing a motor vehicle stopped on or near the right of way of a street or highway

when the stopped vehicle is displaying flashing hazard lights. The driver must also yield right of way by making a lane change, if possible, and must maintain a safe speed for road conditions. A person who violates either of these provisions is subject to a fine of not less than \$300 nor more than \$500.

Department of Public Safety. This bill requires DPS to perform activities that can be conducted in the normal course of business. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on DPS.

Department of Motor Vehicles. The bill does not operationally or fiscally impact DMV. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on DMV.

Judicial. This bill may result in an increase in the caseload in municipal and magistrates courts. Judicial provides support to these courts. Judicial anticipates that the potential increase in caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested.

State Revenue

This bill specifies that a person who fails to exercise control of a vehicle, yield the right of way, and maintain a safe speed for road conditions when approaching or passing a motor vehicle that is stopped on or near the right of way or a street or highway while displaying flashing hazard lights must be fined not less than \$300 nor more than \$500. 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 and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

Local Expenditure

This bill creates the penalties for not exercising control of a vehicle, yielding the right of way, and maintaining a safe speed for road conditions when approaching or passing a motor vehicle that is stopped on or near the right of way or a street or highway while displaying flashing hazard lights.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of municipal and magistrates court cases, which may increase the workload of the court system. The potential increase in expenses will depend upon the increase in the number of cases. Judicial anticipates that the potential increase in caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested.

Local 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 in a change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director