



# 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.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 4540	Introduced on May 8, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	Joint Custody	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Judiciary	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Boggs	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	March 30, 2026	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows a party to submit a proposed parenting plan at any family court hearing where custody, parenting time, or decision making is contested and requires the court to consider any submitted parenting plan prior to issuing temporary and final custody orders. Additionally, this bill clarifies that the family court can only order either sole custody or joint custody with no presumption for or against either type. Under this bill, there is no requirement on the court to find exceptional circumstances to award either type of custody. This bill requires every custody order to determine and specify the schedule of parenting time for each parent and in the event of joint custody, provide for how major decisions regarding the child shall be made.

Judicial anticipates the responsibilities of this bill can be managed by the family court within the normal course of business. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or downstream expenses, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on May 8, 2025

##### State Expenditure

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##### State Revenue

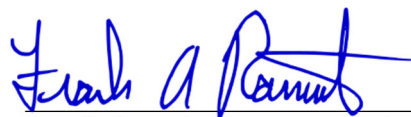
N/A

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director