



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. 4591	Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject:	Stop Harm from Addictive Social Media	
Requestor:	House Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	February 5, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Stop Harm from Addictive Social Media (SHASM) Act, which requires covered social media platforms to estimate the age of account holders to ensure that child account holders have parental consent and are subject to certain privacy settings and time limits. The bill also provides that a child or parent has a private right of action for declaratory or injunctive relief, damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees against a covered social media platform for violations of the provisions of the bill. The Attorney General may investigate and seek remedies against a covered social media platform that has engaged in, is engaging in, or is set to engage in any knowing or reckless violation of the provisions of the bill.

This bill creates a new civil cause of action and may result in an increase in the number of cases heard in circuit court. As this is a new cause of action, there are no data to estimate the number of additional civil cases that may be filed. Judicial intends to use existing appropriations to manage any increase in caseloads. However, Judicial notes that if caseloads increase significantly, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

This fiscal impact is pending, contingent upon a response from the Office of the Attorney General.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill creates the Stop Harm from Addictive Social Media (SHASM) Act, which requires covered social media platforms to estimate the age of account holders to ensure that child account holders have parental consent and are subject to certain privacy settings and time limits. The bill also provides that a child or parent has a private right of action for declaratory or injunctive relief, damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney's fees against a covered social media platform for violations of the provisions of the bill. The Attorney General may investigate and seek remedies against a covered social media platform that has engaged in, is engaging in, or is set to engage in any knowing or reckless violation of the provisions of the bill.

Judicial. This bill creates a new civil cause of action and may result in an increase in the number of cases heard in circuit court. As this is a new cause of action, there are no data to estimate the

number of additional civil cases that may be filed. Judicial intends to use existing appropriations to manage any increase in caseloads. However, Judicial notes that if caseloads increase significantly, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

Office of the Attorney General. This fiscal impact is pending, contingent upon a response from the Office of the Attorney General.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director