



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. 4696 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: Infant Save Haven Placement
Requestor: House Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Boggs
Impact Date: February 11, 2026 - Updated for Additional Agency Response

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill increases the age of an infant that may be left at a safe haven without prosecution for any criminal offense from not more than 60 days old to one year old.

This bill could potentially decrease the number of unlawful conduct cases in circuit court but may increase the number of Daniel's Law cases filed in family court. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact to caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or expenses, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations. Any resources made available due to this shift in caseload will be reallocated to other needs within court system.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) anticipates that the number of infants that would be surrendered at a safe haven may increase due to this bill. However, the agency assumes that the percentage of infants aged 61 days old to one year old who currently come into foster care as abandonments or relinquishments would instead come into DSS care as safe haven infants. Since DSS is currently paying a monthly maintenance payment, along with the related case management costs for the abandoned and relinquished infants, the agency does not anticipate an increase in expenses. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on DSS.

This fiscal impact statement has been updated to include a response from DSS.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response on February 11, 2026

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill increases the age in which a person may leave an infant at a safe haven without prosecution for any criminal offense from not more than 60 days old to one year old.

This bill could potentially decrease the number of unlawful conduct cases in circuit court but may increase the number of Daniel's Law cases filed in family court. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact to caseload can be managed within existing appropriations. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or expenses, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations. Any resources made available due to this shift in caseload will be

reallocated to other needs within the court system.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) anticipates that the number of infants that would be surrendered at a safe haven may increase due to this bill. However, the agency assumes that the percentage of infants aged 61 days old to one year old who currently come into foster care as abandonments or relinquishments would instead come into DSS care as safe haven infants. Since DSS is currently paying a monthly maintenance payment, along with the related case management costs for the abandoned and relinquished infants, the agency does not anticipate an increase in expenses. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on DSS.

This fiscal impact statement has been updated to include a response from DSS.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director