



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. 4710 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: Animal Cruelty
Requestor: House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Vesely
Impact Date: January 14, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill adds the following to the list of actions that are not considered ill-treatment of animals as a misdemeanor offense pursuant to §47-1-40: alteration of livestock to conform with industry standard, including dehorning cattle within standards provided by the Department of Agriculture; lawful provision of food including hunting; zoological operations; scientific or medical research; national or state-organization-sanctioned competitions; law enforcement duties; humane society operations; private property protection; defending against threat of injury or damage; any simulated fight as part of media; or pest control practices.

The Department of Agriculture anticipates being able to manage the responsibilities of this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. The agency notes that it may work with the State Veterinarians Office to establish standards for dehorning cattle.

Additionally, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) anticipates this bill may have a minimal impact on the court system as there may be fewer actions for ill-treatment of animals brought to court.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill adds alteration of livestock to conform with industry standard, including dehorning cattle within standards provided by the Department of Agriculture, among other items, to the list of actions that are not considered ill-treatment of animals as a misdemeanor offense pursuant to §47-1-40.

The Department of Agriculture anticipates being able to manage the responsibilities of this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. The agency notes that it may work with the State Veterinarians Office to establish standards for dehorning cattle.

Additionally, RFA anticipates this bill may have a minimal impact on the court system as there may be fewer actions for ill-treatment of animals brought to court.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill adds the following to the list of actions that are not considered ill-treatment of animals as a misdemeanor offense pursuant to §47-1-40: alteration of livestock to conform with industry standard, including dehorning cattle within standards provided by the Department of Agriculture; lawful provision of food including hunting; zoological operations; scientific or medical research; national or state-organization-sanctioned competitions; law enforcement duties; humane society operations; private property protection; defending against threat of injury or damage; any simulated fight as part of media; or pest control practices. Currently, these items are not specifically identified as activities that are not considered ill-treatment of animals. RFA anticipates this bill may have a minimal impact on the local court system as there may be fewer actions for ill-treatment of animals brought to court.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director