



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. 4747 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: County Utilities
Requestor: House Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Vesely
Impact Date: March 30, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows a county that operates a countywide water and sewer system as of July 1, 2026, to acquire water and sewer systems owned by municipalities within that county. To initiate the acquisition, at least forty percent of qualified electors residing within the service area of the municipal water and sewer system must present a petition to the county requesting the acquisition. After receiving the petition and holding at least one public meeting, the county governing body may enact an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of the municipal water system.

As this bill is permissive in nature, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates the local impact to counties and municipalities will depend upon whether a county that has a countywide water and sewer system chooses to acquire any municipal water and sewer system.

For further information, RFA contacted all counties in the state and the Municipality Association of South Carolina (MASC) and received responses from the counties of Beaufort, Charleston, Clarendon, Florence, and Lancaster and MASC. Beaufort, Charleston, Florence, and Lancaster counties all indicate that this bill would have no impact on their county as they do not operate a countywide water and sewer system. Clarendon county notes that any acquisition proposal may come from residents using a dysfunctional municipal system, which may be expensive for the county to repair.

MASC indicates that this bill may impact municipal expenses including legal, administrative, and operational transition costs. Additionally, this bill may decrease municipal revenues if water and sewer systems are transferred to county control. MASC notes the revenue impact may be significant if a municipality relies on utility charges, as this bill does not provide compensation for municipal assets.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director