



# 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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**Bill Number:** H. 4763 Introduced on January 13, 2026  
**Subject:** Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act  
**Requestor:** House Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Gardner  
**Impact Date:** January 22, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act, which creates the misdemeanor offense of unlawful obstruction of a first responder or emergency medical care provider engaged in the performance of his official duties. This offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment for not more than 60 days.

This bill may increase the number of cases heard in general sessions courts and may therefore increase the workloads for Judicial, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense. However, as this is a new offense, there are no data to estimate the number of additional cases that may be heard by the courts. Additionally, the potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact of the caseload in court can be managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial and these agencies indicate that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) surveyed South Carolina counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) as to the potential fiscal impact of the bill and received responses from Charleston County, Dorchester County, Florence County, Horry County, and MASC. MASC anticipates this bill will have no expenditure impact on municipalities. Additionally, Florence County or Horry County both indicate that any additional expense due to this bill can be managed within existing resources. Both Charleston County and Dorchester County anticipate this bill may have an undetermined local expenditure impact depending upon the increase in the workload for local law enforcement and jails.

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

## Explanation of Fiscal Impact

**Introduced on January 13, 2026**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill creates the Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Act, which makes it unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully approach, impede, cause harm to, or harass a first responder or emergency medical care provider engaged in the performance of his official duties after the offender receives a verbal warning. This offense is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment for not more than 60 days.

This bill may increase the number of cases heard in general sessions courts and may therefore increase the workloads for Judicial, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense. However, as this is a new offense, there are no data to estimate the number of additional cases that may be heard by the courts. Additionally, the potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact of the caseload in court can be managed within existing appropriations. However, Judicial and these agencies indicate that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested.

### **State Revenue**

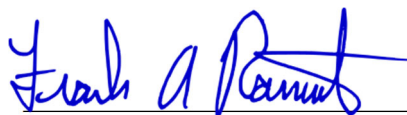
This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court due to the new offense established by this bill. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

### **Local Expenditure**

RFA surveyed South Carolina counties and MASC as to the potential fiscal impact of the bill and received responses from Charleston County, Dorchester County, Florence County, Horry County, and MASC. MASC reports that since the penalties associated with the newly created offense exceed the threshold of eligibility for municipal court, the bill will have no expenditure impact on municipalities. Both Florence County and Horry County report that implementation of the bill will result in no expenditure impact. Charleston County and Dorchester County anticipate this bill may result in an undetermined local expenditure impact, depending upon the increase in the workload for local law enforcement and jails.

### **Local Revenue**

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court due to the establishment of a new offense. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates that this bill may result in a change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director