



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

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. 5013	Introduced on January 27, 2026
Subject:	PFAS Testing Program	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	February 25, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), in coordination with the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), to establish and administer a statewide firefighter occupational health program. Under this bill, DPH must provide, at no cost to firefighters, annual blood testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) and annual occupational health and cancer screenings to all active career and volunteer firefighters employed by municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire departments. Additionally, this bill requires DPH to contract with a qualified medical provider that meets specific requirements to provide the testing. Further, this bill states that fire departments are not responsible for contracting or procuring services and must allow reasonable paid release time for firefighters to participate in the testing and screenings.

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR), which oversees OSFM, anticipates that this bill will have a minimal expenditure impact on the agency to the extent OSFM's role is limited to coordination with DPH by providing a list of active career and volunteer firefighters employed by municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire departments for program administration purposes. However, if implementation of this bill requires OSFM to perform duties beyond providing this list, LLR will need additional details regarding the responsibilities of the agency before determining a fiscal impact.

DPH anticipates that this bill will increase the agency's expenses by approximately \$43,525,900 in FY 2026-27. Expenses will decrease to \$43,521,600 each year thereafter. Of these amounts, recurring expenses are expected to total approximately \$43,521,600 as follows: 1) \$222,000, which includes salary and fringe benefits for 2.0 FTEs (Program Coordinator II and Epidemiologist II) to oversee the program and to manage, analyze, and report data received from the testing and screenings; 2) \$43,258,200 for a contract for a PFAS and cancer screening model; and 3) \$41,400 for miscellaneous operating costs, equipment, and supplies. Non-recurring expenses are expected to total \$4,300 for office equipment. The agency anticipates requesting an increase in General Fund appropriations to cover these expenses.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all forty-six counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Clarendon, Florence, Kershaw, and Lancaster and MASC. The counties of Charleston, Florence, Kershaw, and Lancaster indicate that the bill will either have no expenditure impact or that the impact will be minimal for any costs associated with providing

paid release time for testing. Clarendon County anticipates that this bill may result in a reduction in expenditures for the county as certain annual exams that the county currently funds will now be funded through the new program with DPH. MASC also indicates that this bill may result in an undetermined increase to personnel-related expenditures for municipal fire departments to allow for paid release time for testing. However, the impact is expected to be minimal.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 27, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill requires DPH, in coordination with OSFM, to establish and administer a statewide firefighter occupational health program. Under this bill, DPH must provide, at no cost to the firefighters, annual blood testing for PFAS and annual occupational health and cancer screenings to all active career and volunteer firefighters employed by municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire departments. Additionally, this bill requires DPH to contract with a qualified medical provider that meets specific requirements to provide the testing. Further, this bill states that fire departments are not responsible for contracting or procuring services and must allow reasonable paid release time for firefighters to participate in the testing and screenings.

LLR, which oversees OSFM, anticipates that this bill will have a minimal expenditure impact on the agency to the extent OSFM's role is limited to coordination with DPH by providing a list of active career and volunteer firefighters employed by municipal, county, state, or special purpose district fire departments for program administration purposes. However, if implementation of this bill requires OSFM to perform duties beyond providing this list, LLR will need additional details regarding the responsibilities of the agency before determining a fiscal impact.

DPH anticipates needing to hire 2.0 FTEs (Program Coordinator II and Epidemiologist II) to manage the program and to collect, analyze, and report the data. DPH estimates recurring expenses for the new FTEs to total \$222,000 including salary and fringe benefits. Additionally, recurring expenses for a contract for an integrated PFAS and cancer screening model is estimated to total \$43,258,200. DPH also anticipates recurring expenses of \$41,400 for indirect employee costs and standard office equipment. Non-recurring expenses of \$4,300 are expected for laptops and monitors. Therefore, this bill will increase expenses of DPH by \$43,525,900 in FY 2026-27. Expenses will decrease to \$43,521,600 each year after. The agency anticipates requesting an increase in General Fund appropriations to cover these expenses. For reference, DPH reports that as of March 2025, South Carolina had 18,000 active and volunteer firefighters. Based on the estimated cost for the contract for the PFAS and cancer screening model, the cost of testing per firefighter is estimated at approximately \$2,400 annually.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

RFA contacted all forty-six counties and MASC regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Clarendon, Florence, Kershaw, and Lancaster and MASC. The

counties of Charleston, Florence, Kershaw, and Lancaster indicate that the bill will either have no expenditure impact or that the impact will be minimal. The counties of Charleston and Lancaster expressed that there may be minimal indirect staffing costs associated with providing paid release time and maintaining required staff coverage. Clarendon County anticipates that this bill may result in a decrease in expenditures for the county as certain annual exams that the county currently funds will now be funded through the new program at DPH. MASC indicates that this bill may result in an undetermined increase to personnel-related expenditures for municipal fire departments due to overtime or staffing costs. MASC anticipates that these costs will be minimal but will vary depending on departmental staffing structures. MASC also noted that this bill, through earlier detection, may result in a long-term undetermined decrease in expenditures due to a reduction in claims severity and catastrophic health costs, long-term disability exposure, and workers' compensation exposure.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director