



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. 5096 Introduced on February 4, 2026
Subject: Lab Grown/Cultured Meat
Requestor: House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Daigle
Impact Date: February 19, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill makes it illegal to manufacture, sell, hold, offer for sale, or distribute artificial or cell-cultivated food products in the state. This bill gives authority to a department to revoke or suspend the business license of a food establishment in violation of the new provision in this bill, to issue a stop-sale, removal, or hold order on a products in violation, and to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 17, Title 47, dealing with artificial or cell-cultured food products. The department authorized to complete the requirements of this bill is not defined; however, the title refers to the Department of Agriculture, which is assumed to be the department referenced.

The Department of Agriculture indicates that this bill will have no fiscal impact on the department to accomplish the new responsibilities in is bill dealing with artificial or cell-cultivated food products as any increase in workload can managed with existing staff and resources.

This bill makes it misdemeanor to manufacture, sell, hold, offer for sale, or distribute artificial or cell-cultivated food products in the state, which is currently legal, which may increase the number of cases heard in circuit court. Since this bill makes a current legal practice illegal, there is no data to estimate the number of new cases that will be filed as a result of this bill. Judicial anticipates that any increase in caseloads can be managed with existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicates that if caseloads increase significantly, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

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, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in a change to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.

This bill may increase the number of individuals imprisoned in local jails. The potential increase in expenses for local jails will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 4, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill makes it illegal to manufacture, sell, hold, offer for sale, or distribute artificial or cell-cultivated food products in the state. This bill gives authority to a department to revoke or suspend the business license of a food establishment that manufactures, distributes, or sells cultivated meat, to issue a stop-sale, removal, or hold order on a product found to be artificial or cell-cultivated food products, and to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of Article 5 of Chapter 17, Title 47, dealing with artificial or cell-cultured food products. The department authorized to complete the requirements of this bill is not defined; however, the title refers to the Department of Agriculture, which is assumed to be the department referenced.

A person who violates of the provisions in this bill is guilty of a misdemeanor offense, which is subject to imprisonment for up to one year, or fined up to \$1,000, or both. In addition, the business license of any restaurant, store, or other business may be suspended upon the conviction of an owner or employee of that business that violates the artificial or cell-cultured food product provisions.

Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture indicates that this bill will have no fiscal impact on the department to accomplish the new responsibilities in the bill dealing with artificial or cell-cultivated food products as any increase in workload can managed with existing staff and resources.

Judicial. This bill makes it misdemeanor to manufacture, sell, hold, offer for sale, or distribute artificial or cell-cultivated food products in the state, which is currently legal, which may increase the number of cases heard in circuit court. Since this bill makes a current legal practice illegal, there is no data to estimate the number of new criminal cases that will be filed as a result of this bill. Judicial anticipates that any increase in caseloads can be managed with existing appropriations. However, Judicial indicates that if caseloads increase significantly, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

State Revenue

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 the General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court

Local Expenditure

This bill may increase the number of individuals imprisoned in local jails. The potential increase in expenses for local jails will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations.

Local Revenue

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 local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director