SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
WWW.RFA.SC.GOV • (803)734-3793

Bill Number:	H. 5121 Introduced on February 5, 2026
Subject:	Community Juvenile Crime Prevention Programs
Requestor:	House Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner
Impact Date:	February 24, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to adopt policies, procedures, and promulgate regulations for the purpose of developing and administering a voluntary certification for community juvenile crime prevention programs. These programs will provide structured services and activities to children and adolescents for the primary purpose of preventing juvenile crime and delinquency and encouraging juvenile justice reform.

DJJ indicates that the agency will either need 2.0 FTEs (program managers) at an annual expense of $270,000 or will need to contract with a private vendor to administer the certification program, at an annual expense of $300,000 beginning in FY 2026-27. DJJ further indicates that the agency has 2.0 vacant FTEs but will need to request a General Fund appropriation increase to cover the funding for the FTEs or for the contract expenses.

This bill imposes a civil penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500 for the unlawful representation of an uncertified community juvenile crime prevention program as being certified. This bill may increase the number of local court cases. While these are locally funded courts, Judicial offers administrative support for these courts. Judicial anticipates being able to manage any increase in workload using existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in an unexpected, significant increase in the caseload, and thereby, Judicial's administrative support, Judicial will request additional 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, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenue due to the increase in fine collections by the court.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 5, 2026
State Expenditure
This bill requires DJJ to adopt policies, procedures, and promulgate regulations for the purpose of developing and administering a voluntary certification for community juvenile crime prevention programs. The programs may be operated by public or private nonprofit entities. DJJ must publish on its website a registry of all certified programs. While it is acceptable for a

community juvenile crime prevention program to operate without certification from DJJ, it is unlawful for any owner, staff, or operator of an uncertified program to advertise or otherwise represent that the program is certified. Persons who violate this provision are subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500 per occurrence.

Judicial. This bill may increase the number of local court cases. While these are locally funded courts, Judicial offers administrative support for these courts. Judicial anticipates being able to manage any increase in workload using existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in an unexpected, significant increase in the caseload, and thereby, Judicial's administrative support, Judicial will request additional General Fund appropriations.

Department of Juvenile Justice. This bill will require DJJ to either hire 2.0 FTEs, program managers, or contract with a private vendor who has experience in working with nonprofits. If DJJ opts to hire the 2.0 FTEs to administer the certification program, it would need at least $270,000 in recurring funds for personnel costs and may also need an undetermined amount of non-recurring funds for startup costs. If DJJ opts to hire an outside contractor to manage the certification program, recurring expenditures are estimated to be $300,000 annually beginning in FY 2026-27. DJJ further indicates that the agency has 2.0 vacant FTEs but will need to request a General Fund appropriation increase to cover the funding for the FTEs or for the contract expenses.

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 imposes a civil penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500 for the unlawful representation of an uncertified community juvenile crime prevention program as being certified. This bill may increase local expenses due to the potential increase in the caseload in the local court system. The amount of the expenses will depend upon the increase in the number of cases heard in the local court system.

Local Revenue

This bill may result in a change in the fines and fees collected in court since it increases penalties associated with trespassing convictions. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. 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