



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. 5164	Introduced on February 11, 2026
Subject:	Hospitals	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	March 11, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill states that patient beds may be used in hallways, corridors, and other means of egress during a justified emergency as defined by this bill. Additionally, hospitals must develop written protocols for justified emergency conditions and require all employees responsible for the care or treatment of patients to familiarize themselves with these protocols. Further, within seven calendar days of the start of the justified emergency, the hospital must document on a form developed by the Department of Public Health (DPH) that all other appropriate treatment space was exhausted and that the health and safety of patients were jeopardized without the use of beds in these areas.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on DPH, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). DPH anticipates that any additional responsibilities created by this bill can be managed within existing staff and appropriations. DVA and DBHDD indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agencies since the inpatient facilities overseen by these agencies do not utilize patient beds in hallways.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all forty-six counties regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Dorchester, Horry, and Lancaster. These counties indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact.

The fiscal impact of this bill on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 11, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill states that patient beds may be used in hallways, corridors, and other means of egress during a justified emergency as defined by this bill. Additionally, hospitals must develop written protocols for justified emergency conditions and require all employees responsible for the care or treatment of patients to familiarize themselves with these protocols. Further, within seven calendar days of the start of the justified emergency, the hospital must document on a form

developed by DPH that all other appropriate treatment space was exhausted and that the health and safety of patients were jeopardized without the use of beds in these areas.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on DPH, DVA, DBHDD. DPH anticipates that any additional responsibilities created by this bill can be managed within existing staff and appropriations. DVA and DBHDD indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agencies since the inpatient facilities overseen by these agencies do not utilize patient beds in hallways.

The fiscal impact of this bill on MUSC is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

RFA contacted all forty-six counties regarding this legislation and received responses from the counties of Charleston, Dorchester, Horry, and Lancaster. These counties indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director