



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:	S. 0099	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Enhancement of Penalties on Assault Crimes	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	March 19, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill provides for enhanced penalties for certain violent crimes committed against a victim who was intentionally targeted due to the offender's belief or perceptions about the victim.

This bill may impact the caseload in circuit court and potentially the number of incarcerations, which may increase the workload of the court system and the Commission of Indigent Defense, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Department of Corrections (Corrections), and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP). Judicial indicates that the impact in the caseload in circuit court is expected to be managed within existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in the caseload additional General Fund appropriations may be requested. The potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations. 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. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, of which \$36,553 was state funded.

This bill levies an additional fine of up to \$10,000 against persons convicted of certain violent crimes, which may result in an increase in the amount of fines collected by the court. Court fines 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 an undetermined impact to General Fund revenue, Other Funds revenue, and local revenue due to the unknown increase in fine collections by the court.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill provides an additional fine of no more than \$10,000 and an additional term of imprisonment of up to five years for certain violent crimes when the offender intentionally selects a victim due to the offender's belief or perception regarding the victim's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

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the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Corrections, and PPP. Judicial indicates that the impact in the caseload in circuit court is expected to be managed within existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in the caseload additional General Fund appropriations may be requested. The potential increase in expenses for each agency will depend upon the increase in the workload and number of incarcerations. 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. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2023-24, the annual total cost per inmate was \$40,429, of which \$36,553 was state funded.

State Revenue

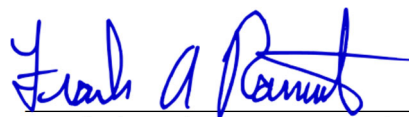
This bill may result in an increase in the amount of fines collected by the court. Court fines are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the increase in fine collections by the court.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill may result in an increase in the amount of fines collected by the court. Court fines are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in an undetermined increase to local revenue due to the increase in fine collections by the court.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director