



**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. 0299 Introduced on January 30, 2025
Subject: Law Enforcement
Requestor: Senate Medical Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Boggs
Impact Date: January 30, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill extends the time a physician’s certificate for hospitalization due to mental illness is valid in cases where safe transport is unavailable due to a natural disaster or the existence of life-threatening conditions. Further, the bill changes circumstance under which a friend or relative may transport a mentally ill patient and provides immunity from civil liability for the certifying physician or a third party meeting the minimum standards of the department when acting under the provisions of this bill.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Office of Mental Health (OMH) division of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), formerly known as the Department of Mental Health (DMH), since the bill does not alter the responsibilities of the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 30, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill extends the time a physician’s certificate for hospitalization due to mental illness is valid in cases where safe transport is unavailable due to a natural disaster or the existence of life-threatening conditions. Further, the bill changes circumstance under which a friend or relative may transport a mentally ill patient and provides immunity from civil liability for the certifying physician or a third party meeting the minimum standards of the department when acting under the provisions of this bill.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the OMH division of DBHDD, formerly known as DMH, since the bill does not alter the responsibilities of the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure and Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director