



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. 0631 Introduced on May 1, 2025
Subject: Limitation on Places of Residence of Certain Sex Offenders; Exceptions
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Bryant and Gardner
Impact Date: February 5, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill adds to the current limitation on places of residence of sex offenders by specifying that it is unlawful for a sex offender who has been convicted of certain offenses to reside within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop. The bill also provides exclusions to this provision. Additionally, the bill expands the current fines and imprisonment to include violations related to sex offenders residing within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop. The bill further specifies that at the beginning of each school year, each school district must provide local law enforcement agencies with a list of school bus stops within the district, as well as the names and addresses in writing and on the district website of every sex offender who resides within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop.

This bill may impact the workload of the court system, the Commission on Indigent Defense, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Department of Corrections, and Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (PPP). However, as this is a new offense, there are no data available to determine any increase in caseloads or incarcerations. Judicial anticipates the responsibilities of this bill can be managed within the normal course of business. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Commission on Indigent Defense, the Department of Corrections, and PPP anticipate being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill within existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then Judicial and the agencies may request an increase in General Fund appropriations. For information, according to the Department of Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

Implementation of the bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). SLED indicates that it can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) regarding this legislation and received responses from three counties and MASC. Chester County and Dorchester County indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing staff and resources. Lancaster County reports that the county currently has only one deputy who handles the sex offender registry, in addition to other responsibilities, and may not have sufficient time to manage the requirements of the bill. MASC indicates that this bill is expected to result in a modest, indeterminate fiscal impact on municipal governments due to increased administrative, compliance, and enforcement responsibilities

assigned to local law enforcement agencies. MASC reports that the magnitude of the impact will vary by municipality based on local conditions and existing staffing resources.

The expenditure impact of the bill on the local school districts will vary. The S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from seventeen districts. Eleven districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Three districts indicate that this bill will have an impact but report that any additional duties can be managed with existing staff and resources. One district anticipates that the bill will have an expenditure impact but reports that the costs are currently undetermined. Two districts indicate that this bill will increase costs by an amount ranging from \$20,000 to \$42,000 for staff to collect and report the required information to local law enforcement.

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

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on May 1, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the current limitation on places of residence of sex offenders by specifying that it is unlawful for a sex offender who has been convicted of certain offenses to reside within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop. Currently, certain sex offenders may not live within 1,000 feet of a school, daycare center, children's recreational facility, park, or public playground. The bill also specifies that the provisions of the bill do not apply to a sex offender who resided within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop before the effective date of the bill, before the sex offender was charged with any of the enumerated offenses, or as a result of the establishment of a new school, daycare center, children's recreational facility, park, or public playground. Further, the bill expands the current fines and imprisonment to include violations related to sex offenders residing within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop.

This bill may impact the workload of the court system, the Commission of Indigent Defense, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Department of Corrections, and PPP. However, as this is a new offense, there are no data available to determine the increase caseload and number of incarcerations. Judicial anticipates the responsibilities of this bill can be managed within the normal course of business. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Commission on Indigent Defense, the Department of Corrections, and PPP anticipate being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill within existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then Judicial and the agencies may request an increase in General Fund appropriations. For information, according to the Department of Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

State Law Enforcement Division. Implementation of the bill will have no expenditure impact on SLED. SLED indicates that it can manage the provisions of the bill with existing 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 General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court

Local Expenditure

This bill adds to the current limitation on places of residence of sex offenders by specifying that it is unlawful for a sex offender who has been convicted of certain offenses to reside within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop. The bill also provides exclusions to this provision. Further, the bill expands the current fines and imprisonment to include violations related to sex offenders residing withing 1,000 feet of a school bus stop.

The bill also specifies that at the beginning of each school year, each school district must provide local law enforcement agencies with a list of school bus stops within the district, as well as the names and addresses in writing and on the district website of every sex offender who resides within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop within the school district to the parents or guardians of a student who boards or disembarks a school bus at a school bus stop. Local law enforcement must check the school districts' websites to determine if each school district has complied with this requirement. If local law enforcement determines that this information has not been provided, then the local law enforcement agency must inform the school district that it is in violation of this requirement. If the school district does not comply within thirty days after notice of its violations, then the school district is subject to equitable injunctive relief.

RFA contacted all counties and MASC regarding this legislation and received responses from three counties and MASC. Chester County and Dorchester County indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing staff and resources. Lancaster County reports that the county currently has only one deputy who handles the sex offender registry, in addition to other responsibilities, and may not have sufficient time to manage the requirements of the bill. MASC indicates that this bill is expected to result in a modest, indeterminate fiscal impact on municipal governments due to increased administrative, compliance, and enforcement responsibilities assigned to local law enforcement agencies. MASC reports that the magnitude of the impact will vary by municipality based on local conditions and existing staffing resources.

The expenditure impact of the bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from seventeen districts. Eleven districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Three districts indicate that this bill will have an impact but report that any additional duties can be managed with existing staff and resources. One district anticipates that the bill will have an expenditure impact but reports that the costs are currently undetermined. Two districts indicate

that this bill will increase costs by an amount ranging from \$20,000 to \$42,000 for staff to collect and report the required information to local law enforcement.

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