



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. 0697 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: 211 Network
Requestor: Senate Banking and Insurance
RFA Analyst(s): Vesely
Impact Date: January 29, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill transfers responsibility of the South Carolina 211 Network, created within the Budget and Control Board (B&CB), to the Department of Consumer Affairs. This bill specifies that the South Carolina 211 Network is to serve as the single point of coordination of information and referral for health and human services. In order to participate in the South Carolina 211 Network, a provider must be certified by Consumer Affairs.

Currently, the United Way operates the 211 Network for South Carolina through a temporary partnership with United Way of North Carolina, which ends June 30, 2026. Based on expected costs to contract with a vendor to operate the network, Consumer Affairs estimates this bill will increase expenses by approximately \$1,200,000 per year beginning in FY 2026-27. The department will request General Fund appropriations for these expenses.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill transfers responsibility of the South Carolina 211 Network, created within the B&CB, to Consumer Affairs. This bill specifies that the South Carolina 211 Network is to serve as the single point of coordination of information and referral for health and human services. In order to participate in the South Carolina 211 Network, a provider must be certified by Consumer Affairs.

The South Carolina 211 Network was originally established by Act 339 of 2002 under the B&CB. According to the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA), when the B&CB was dissolved, Act 278 of 2012 nominally gave the responsibility to PEBA, which was later determined to be an error. The United Way has maintained the 211 Network since the dissolution of the B&CB. During Hurricane Helene, Consumer Affairs reports that United Way's in-house call center was unable to handle the volume of calls for the 211 Network. The United Way established a temporary partnership with United Way of North Carolina to meet current needs, which ends June 30, 2026. Consumer Affairs anticipates that the cost to contract with a vendor to operate the 211 Network call center will be approximately \$1,200,000 annually based on the current costs reported by the United Way. Therefore, the bill will increase expenditures for Consumer Affairs by approximately \$1,200,000 annually beginning in FY 2026-27. The department will request General Fund appropriations for these expenses.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director