



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:	S. 0717	Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject:	Mothers and Preborns Act	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	February 3, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Healthy Mother and Healthy Newborn Ombudsman Office (HMHNOO) within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The office will be headed by an ombudsman to be appointed by DHHS. Further, the bill lists the responsibilities of HMHNOO, including but not limited to, maintaining records of all state programs designed to assist a parent during pregnancy and infancy, referring parents to appropriate programs, and receiving, investigating, and resolving written complaints. Additionally, this bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide brochures and other written materials that list an overview of the services of HMHNOO and describes the programs available to parents during pregnancy and infancy.

This bill will require DHHS to hire 5.0 FTEs, an ombudsman, program manager, 2 program analysts, and an administrative and outreach coordinator, to operate HMHNOO. DHHS estimates an agency cost of \$435,000 in salary and \$262,107 in fringe benefits for the additional 5.0 FTEs beginning in FY 2026-27. DHHS also anticipates that there will be an estimated recurring expense of \$200,000 for general supplies, travel, and printing and distribution of brochures statewide in FY 2026-27. Therefore, this bill would result in an estimated increase of \$897,107 beginning in FY 2026-27. All expenditures are funded at a 50/50 rate between state and federal funds. Therefore, DHHS anticipates this bill will increase Federal Funds expenditures by \$448,553 and General Funds expenditures by \$448,553 in FY 2026-27. The agency anticipates requesting an increase in General Funds and Federal Funds appropriations to cover these expenses.

This bill will require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide information on relevant programs to HMHNOO. DSS anticipates that the responsibilities of this bill can be managed with existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the agency.

The fiscal impact of this bill on the Department of Public Health (DPH) is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill creates HMMHNOO within DHHS. The office will be headed by an ombudsman to be appointed by DHHS. Further, the bill lists the responsibilities of HMMHNOO, including but not limited to, maintaining records of all state programs designed to assist a parent during pregnancy and infancy, referring parents to appropriate programs, and receiving, investigating, and resolving written complaints. Additionally, this bill requires DPH to provide brochures and other written materials that list an overview of the services of HMMHNOO and describes the programs available to parents during pregnancy and infancy.

This bill will require DHHS to hire 5.0 FTEs, an ombudsman, program manager, 2 program analysts, and an administrative and outreach coordinator, to operate HMMHNOO. DHHS estimates an agency cost of \$205,103 in salary and fringe benefits for 1.0 Program Manager IV FTE, \$1,159,279 for 1.0 Program Manager III FTE, \$242,183 for 2.0 Program Manager I FTEs, and \$90,542 for 1.0 Administrative Coordinator II FTE. DHHS also anticipates that there will be an estimated recurring expense of \$200,000 for general supplies, travel, and printing and distribution of brochures statewide in FY 2026-27. Therefore, this bill would result in an estimated increase of \$897,107 beginning in FY 2026-27. All expenditures are funded at a 50/50 rate between state and federal funds. Therefore, DHHS anticipates this bill will increase Federal Funds expenditures by \$448,553 and General Funds expenditures by \$448,553 in FY 2026-27. The agency anticipates requesting an increase in General Funds and Federal Funds appropriations to cover these expenses.

This bill will require DSS to provide information on relevant programs to HMMHNOO. DSS anticipates that the responsibilities of this bill can be managed with existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the agency.

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

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director