



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. 0717	Amended by Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee on January 28, 2026
Subject:	Mothers and Preborns Act	
Requestor:	Senate Medical Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	February 5, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates the Healthy Mother and Healthy Newborn Ombudsman Office (HMHNOO) within the Department of Public Health (DPH). The office will be headed by an ombudsman to be appointed by the director of DPH. 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 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 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.

This bill will require DPH to hire 1.0 RN, non-institutional FTE to act as the ombudsman and meet the other requirements of HMHNOO. DPH estimates an agency cost of \$71,300 in salary and \$32,627 in fringe benefits for the additional 1.0 FTE beginning in FY 2026-27. DPH also anticipates that there will be an estimated recurring expense of \$22,426 for general supplies and contractual costs beginning in FY 2026-27. Therefore, this bill would result in an estimated increase of \$126,353 beginning in FY 2026-27. The agency anticipates requesting an increase in General Funds appropriations to cover these expenses.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee on January 28, 2026

State Expenditure

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State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director