



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. 0739	Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject:	Incitement to Riot	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	February 4, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill enables a person whose property is damaged due to a mob or riot to file a civil action against a funding entity that provides material to or for a mob or riot and expands the offense of riot or participating in a riot to include those who fund or provide material. This bill also permits the Attorney General, solicitors, or their designees to institute proceedings for restitution against funding entities for the violation of rioting. Further, this bill authorizes law enforcement officers responding to an order from the Governor to manage the scene of a riot or unlawful assemblage to use dye or paint to identify persons who may be charged with instigating, aiding, or participating in a riot.

This bill may impact the workloads of the court system, the Commission on Indigent Defense, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Department of Corrections. However, 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, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Department of Corrections also anticipate being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill within existing appropriations. However, if the bill results in a significant increase in workloads, then Judicial and the other 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.

The Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, and the State Law Enforcement Division report that the bill will have no expenditure impact as any additional responsibilities can be managed within existing appropriations.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) surveyed South Carolina counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) as to the potential fiscal impact of the bill and received responses from Dorchester County, Florence County, and MASC. Both Dorchester County and Florence County indicate the bill will result in no expenditure impact. MASC notes this bill may result in an increase in expenses for additional training for local law enforcement but may also result in an increase in cost recovery for property damage during a riot.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill enables a person whose property is damaged due to a mob or riot to file a civil action against a funding entity that provides material to or for a mob or riot and expands the offense of riot or participating in a riot to include those who fund or provide material. This bill also permits the Attorney General, solicitors, or their designees to institute proceedings for restitution against funding entities for the violation of rioting. Further, this bill authorizes law enforcement officers responding to an order from the Governor to manage the scene of a riot or unlawful assemblage to use dye or paint to identify persons who may be charged with instigating, aiding, or participating in a riot.

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State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill authorizes law enforcement officers responding to an order from the Governor to manage the scene of a riot or unlawful assemblage to use dye or paint to identify persons who may be charged with instigating, aiding, or participating in a riot.

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Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director