



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. 0745 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: Help Find Missing Americans Act
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Vesely
Impact Date: April 21, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows an individual who is the account holder of a telecommunications device used by a missing person to submit a written request to the service provider to access information on the missing person's device for the purpose of finding that person. This bill creates a misdemeanor offense for persons who knowingly and willfully use the disclosed information for reasons other than investigative purposes directly related to the missing person case.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of circuit court cases and potentially the number of incarcerations, which may increase the workload of the court system and the Commission of Indigent Defense (CID), the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (CPC), the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon (PPP). The potential increase in expenses for Judicial and each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations. Judicial and these agencies indicate that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

This bill required the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to provide recommendations to the General Assembly regarding ways to aid law enforcement in missing person cases no later than January 1, 2027. This bill will have no expenditure impact for SLED as the agency anticipates being able to manage the additional responsibilities with existing staff and within existing appropriations

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) surveyed all the counties in the state and contacted the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) to determine the potential expenditure impact this bill may have for local governments. We received a response from the counties of Dorchester, Florence, Horry, and Lancaster and MASC. All responding counties anticipate that this bill will have no or minimal expenditure impact. MASC indicates this bill may result in an increase in local expenses including legal and administrative expenses.

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

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill allows an individual who is the account holder of a telecommunications device used by a missing person to submit a written request to the service provider to access information on the missing person's device for the purpose of finding that person. This bill creates a misdemeanor offense for persons who knowingly and willfully use the disclosed information for reasons other than investigative purposes directly related to the missing person case.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of circuit court cases and potentially the number of incarcerations due to the new misdemeanor offense, which may increase the workload of the court system and CID, CPC, Corrections, PPP. The potential increase in expenses for Judicial and each agency will depend upon the increase in the number of cases and number of incarcerations. Judicial and these agencies indicate that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, then an increase in General Fund appropriations may be requested. For information, according to Corrections, in FY 2024-25, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,503, of which \$35,696 was state funded.

This bill required SLED to provide recommendations to the General Assembly regarding ways to aid law enforcement in missing person cases no later than January 1, 2027. SLED indicates that any increase in workload will be managed with existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, there is no expenditure impact to SLED.

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

Local Expenditure

This bill allows an individual who is the account holder of a telecommunications device used by a missing person to submit a written request to the service provider to access information on the missing person's device for the purpose of finding that person.

RFA surveyed all the counties in the state and contacted MASC to determine the potential expenditure impact this bill may have for local governments and received responses from the counties of Dorchester, Florence, Horry, and Lancaster and MASC. All responding counties anticipate that this bill will have no or minimal expenditure impact on their counties. MASC indicates this bill may result in an increase in local expenses including legal and administrative expenses.

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