



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. 0823	Introduced on January 15, 2026
Subject:	Child Welfare	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs	
Impact Date:	January 28, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires family courts entering orders terminating parental rights or final decrees of adoption to consider whether a no-contact or supervised-contact order between a child and any biological parent or relative is necessary to protect the child's safety, welfare, or attachment to the adoptive family or other caregiver. If the court determines that a no-contact or supervised-contact order is not necessary, the court must make written findings on the record stating the factual basis for that determination.

Under this bill, a violation of a no-contact order may be enforced by civil contempt. Additionally, upon motion of any party or the child, if of sufficient age and maturity, the court may modify or terminate a no-contact order or supervised-contact order upon a showing that modification is in the child's best interests.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) anticipates this bill will have no expenditure impact. DSS currently makes decisions on whether to allow contact between a child and any biological parent or relative, especially in cases involving the termination of parental rights. This bill moves the issuance of no-contact or supervised-contact orders in these cases to the family courts. Any resources made available due to this shift will be reallocated to other needs within the agency.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of family court cases since these orders are enforceable by civil contempt and this bill provides for modification or termination of these orders. Judicial anticipates that the potential impact of the caseload in family court can be managed within existing appropriations. However, if the bill has an unanticipated impact on caseloads or downstream expenses, Judicial will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 15, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill requires family courts entering orders terminating parental rights or final decrees of adoption to consider whether a no-contact or supervised-contact order between a child and any biological parent or relative is necessary to protect the child's safety, welfare, or attachment to the adoptive family or other caregiver. If the court determines that a no-contact or supervised-

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State Revenue

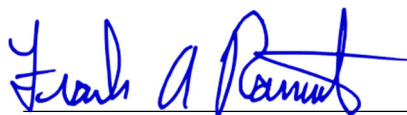
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



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