



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. 0879 Introduced on February 3, 2026
Subject: Master-in-Equity Terms of Office
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: March 24, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill standardizes the terms in office of masters-in-equity such that a term of service will begin on July 1st in the year in which the master-in-equity’s term begins and end June 30th in the appropriate expiration year.

The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill will not increase local expenses as shifting the timing of certain masters-in-equity’s terms of service creates no additional responsibilities for the local courts.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 3, 2026

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill provides that the initial term of a master-in-equity for a court established after January 1, 2027, will begin on July 1st in the year in which the court is established. If the term of office for a master-in-equity on January 1, 2027, is set to expire on or before July 1st in its expiration year, then the term expires on June 30th of that same year. If the term is set to expire after July 1st, then the term expires on June 30th of the following year.

This bill may shift the timing of certain masters-in-equity’s terms of service but creates no additional responsibilities for the local courts. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill will not increase local expenses.

Local Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director