



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. 1029	Introduced on March 18, 2026
Subject:	Vaccine Exemptions	
Requestor:	Senate Medical Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Boggs and Bryant	
Impact Date:	April 27, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill updates language to clarify that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has general direction and supervision of exemptions to vaccinations, screenings, and immunizations in the State. Additionally, this bill allows the governing body of a private childcare facility as defined in §63-13-20, which is the Department of Social Services (DSS), a registered church or religious child day care facility, or a private school as defined in §59-1-110 to adopt different vaccination or immunization requirements for admission or enrollment in these facilities, provided that records are maintained by the school or day care facility for each admitted child. Currently, DPH oversees all public and private vaccination and immunization requirements. Further, this bill allows DPH, during a public health emergency, to isolate or quarantine a child or person enrolled at a school or day care facility if the child or person is not vaccinated or immunized as directed against the contagious disease for which the public health emergency was declared and the child or person has been diagnosed or exposed to the contagious disease. This bill also requires DPH to allow the parent or guardian of a minor child to seek a personal exemption from any vaccination or immunization required to attend a public institution, school, or day care facility in the State.

DSS indicates it is unclear whether this bill shifts the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private childcare facilities, registered church or religious child day care facilities, and private schools from DPH to DSS, as the governing body of private childcare facilities as defined in §63-13-20.

DSS notes that if this bill shifts the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private facilities to DSS, the agency anticipates these additional duties will increase expenses by up to \$1,853,000 in FY 2026-27, including \$1,813,000 in recurring expenses and \$40,000 in non-recurring expenses. Recurring expenses include \$1,598,000 for salary and fringe for 16.0 FTEs (three Program Coordinator II and one Administrative Assistant for each of the four regions in the state). In addition, \$215,000 is for recurring operating expenses, including annual training and other ongoing costs. DSS also anticipates the need for an additional \$40,000 for one-time equipment costs. DSS will request additional General Fund appropriations for these expenses.

DPH anticipates that the requirements of this bill can be met using current staff and appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency. To note, DPH

did not comment on the potential impact to the agency if the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private childcare facilities shifts to DSS.

The S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from thirteen districts. Nine districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Two districts report that any additional costs can be managed with existing appropriations. One district indicates that costs may increase if the district has to provide homebound instruction to quarantined students who are not vaccinated during a public health emergency but reports that the cost cannot be quantified at this time. The one remaining district indicates that costs may increase by approximately \$300,000 due to the need to hire an additional nurse at each of the district's twenty-five schools to monitor and follow up with students who do not provide the proper documentation and to communicate with DPH.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 18, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill updates language to clarify that DPH has general direction and supervision of exemptions to vaccinations, screenings, and immunizations in the State. Additionally, this bill allows the governing body of a private childcare facility as defined in §63-13-20, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or a private school as defined in §59-1-110 to adopt different vaccination or immunization requirements for admission or enrollment in these facilities, provided that records are maintained by the school or day care facility for each admitted child. Currently, DPH oversees all public and private vaccination and immunization requirements. Further, this bill allows DPH, during a public health emergency, to isolate or quarantine a child or person enrolled at a school or day care facility if the child or person is not vaccinated or immunized as directed against the contagious disease for which the public health emergency was declared and the child or person has been diagnosed or exposed to the contagious disease. This bill also requires DPH to allow the parent or guardian of a minor child to seek a personal exemption from any vaccination or immunization required to attend a public institution, school, or day care facility in the State.

Department of Social Services. DSS is the governing body of private childcare facilities as defined in §63-13-20. The agency indicates that it is unclear whether this bill will shift the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private childcare facilities, registered church or religious child day care facilities, and private schools from DPH to DSS.

If this bill shifts the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private facilities to DSS, the agency anticipates these additional duties will increase expenses by \$1,853,000 in FY 2026-27, including \$1,813,000 in recurring expenses and \$40,000 in non-recurring expenses. Recurring expenses include \$1,598,000 for salary and fringe for 16.0 FTEs (three Program Coordinator II and one Administrative Assistant for each of the four regions in the state). In addition, \$215,000 is for recurring operating expenses, including annual training

and other ongoing costs. DSS also anticipates the need for an additional \$40,000 for one-time equipment costs. DSS will request additional General Fund appropriations for these expenses.

Department of Public Health. DPH anticipates that the requirements of this bill can be met using current staff and appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency. To note, DPH did not comment on the potential impact to the agency if the responsibility to monitor the vaccination and immunization records for private childcare facilities shifts to DSS.

State Revenue

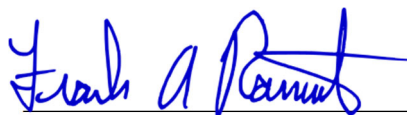
N/A

Local Expenditure

SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from thirteen districts. Nine districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Two districts report that any additional costs can be managed with existing appropriations. One district indicates that costs may increase if the district has to provide homebound instruction to quarantined students who are not vaccinated during a public health emergency but reports that the cost cannot be quantified at this time. The one remaining district indicates that costs may increase by approximately \$300,000 due to the need to hire an additional nurse at each of the district's twenty-five schools to monitor and follow up with students who do not provide the proper documentation and to communicate with DPH.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director