



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** S. 1182  
**Author:** Shealy  
**Subject:** Coroners and medical examiners  
**Requestor:** Senate Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Wren, Fulmer, Gardner, and Stein  
**Impact Date:** April 8, 2016 - Updated for additional agency response

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2016-17</b>	<b>FY 2017-18</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	At Least \$1,610,000	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
<b>State Revenue</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditure</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	At Least \$1,610,000	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires an expenditure of at least \$1,610,000 contingent upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources. This bill would have no expenditure impact on local governments. Revenue for local governments could increase by at least \$1,610,000 annually depending upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources. This fiscal impact statement has been updated to include a response by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Updated for Additional Agency Response on April 8, 2016**

**State Expenditure**

This bill adds Section 17-5-541, which states that the coroner of each county, within a timeframe not to exceed seven working days, must schedule a local Child Fatality Review Team to perform a review of a case where a child under the age of eighteen dies in the county he serves. The team may be comprised of the county coroner or his designee, a local law enforcement officer, an agent from the State Law Enforcement Division's Department of Child Fatalities, a board certified child abuse pediatrician or a forensic pathologist, a representative from the local county department of social services, and any other individual the coroner deems necessary. The purpose of the local Child Fatality Review Team is to rapidly review all child deaths that occur in the county in which each coroner serves. In doing this, the local Child Fatality Review Team must enter the team's findings of each reviewed child death into the Child Death Review Case Reporting System, submit a monthly report to the State Child Fatality Advisory Committee, and submit a report to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Also, this bill amends Section 17-5-130, which

states that the Coroners Training Advisory Committee must govern the qualifications of all coroners, deputy coroners, and candidates for coroner. Also, the committee may recommend suspension to the Governor and loss of funding to the county council.

**Office of the State Treasurer.** This bill requires an expenditure of at least \$1,610,000 contingent upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources. These funds would be disbursed to the county treasurers to supplant existing funds utilized by county coroners.

**Department of Social Services.** The department indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Law Enforcement Training Council.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Department of Health and Environmental Control.** The department's updated response indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-three county governments and the Municipal Association of South Carolina regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. Florence and Greenville counties indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact on their localities. Although only two responses were received from the surveyed counties, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on county governments. The Municipal Association also indicates this bill will have no expenditure impact on municipal governments.

#### **Local Revenue**

This bill adds Section 17-5-140, which provides that from appropriations remitted to the State Treasurer, \$35,000 must be disbursed to each county treasurer. These funds must supplement existing funds utilized for county coroners. The remaining appropriations must be disbursed based upon population. Counties with a population of 150,000 and above must receive an equal share of fifty-five percent of the remaining funds. Counties with a population of at least 50,000 but not more than 149,999, must receive an equal share of thirty-five percent of the remaining funds. Counties with a population of less than 50,000 must receive an equal share of ten percent of the remaining funds. Implementation of this section is contingent upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources.

This bill would increase revenue for county governments by at least \$35,000 annually, or \$1,610,000 on a state-wide basis. The revenue must first be used to pay the elected coroner at least \$35,000. Additional funds, if available, would be disbursed based upon county population and could be used for administrative or forensic personnel, office space, or for office equipment. Implementation of this additional revenue is contingent upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources.

### **Explanation of Bill Filed on March 23, 2016**

#### **State Expenditure**

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**Department of Social Services.** The department indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Law Enforcement Training Council.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.** The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Department of Health and Environmental Control.** The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

## **State Revenue**

N/A

## **Local Expenditure**

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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director