



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** S. 0170 Introduced on January 10, 2017  
**Author:** Shealy  
**Subject:** Child Fatality Review Team  
**Requestor:** Senate Judiciary  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Heineman, Shuford, Stein, and Gardner  
**Impact Date:** March 1, 2017

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2017-18</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	Undetermined	\$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>	Undetermined	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	Undetermined	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires an expenditure of \$1,610,000, contingent upon General Fund appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources. This bill has an undetermined 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.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on January 10, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

This bill adds requirements for coroners in regard to establishing Child Fatality Review Teams (CFRT) when a child under the age of eighteen has died. The bill requires coroners of each county to schedule a local CFRT within seven working days to perform a review of a case where a child has died and sets rules for who must be on the review team. Additionally, the bill sets requirements for what each local CFRT must achieve during its review. This bill provides for the distribution of funds to counties based upon population to supplement existing funds used for full-time county coroners. The minimum funding to each county is \$35,000 and is contingent upon availability of funds from state appropriations or the availability of financial support from other sources. This bill further amends the responsibilities of the Coroners Training Advisory Committee to include assisting with determining annual training requirements for coroners and deputy coroners. The committee is also required to govern the qualifications of all coroners, deputy coroners, and candidates for coroners, certify all coroners, and require coroners to appear for performance reviews.

**Office of the State Treasurer.** The bill would require the Treasurer's Office to disburse appropriated or unspecified other available funding to counties based upon the population formula specified within the bill. The Treasurer's Office indicates the Treasury Management Division (TMD) would need to modify their existing IT fund distribution system to accommodate the required distributions to each county. Updates to the IT fund distribution system will be absorbed within existing TMD resources.

**Department of Social Services.** The department indicates that the staff time required to serve on local CFRTs can be managed within existing staff and budget appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).** The department indicates that the special victims unit (SVU) will be present at any child death review where SLED has an open case. The SVU is able to accommodate this need with current resources, and in some cases, this is already occurring. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

**Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).** The department reports about 200 child deaths each year fall into the CFRT category and are handled with existing resources. DHEC reports this information to the State Child Fatality Advisory Committee, although this bill does not impose a reporting requirement on the department. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

The bill adds additional responsibilities for county coroners in investigating child fatalities and expands the requirements for local county departments of social services with regard to supporting CFRTs. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-three county governments and received one response. Horry County indicated that the bill is not expected to impact local expenditures as the local department of social services is under the auspices of the Department of Social Services. They did not address the requirements for coroners. Based upon the limited responses received, the expenditure impact for local governments is undetermined.

#### **Local Revenue**

Contingent upon appropriation of funds or the availability of financial support from other sources, each county treasurer would receive monthly disbursements from the State Treasurer's Office to supplement funding utilized by full-time county coroners. Any remaining appropriations must be disbursed based upon population reported in the latest official U.S. Decennial Census. Counties with a population of 150,000 and above must receive an equal share of 55 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 35 percent of the remaining funds. Counties with a population of less than 50,000 must receive an equal share of 10 percent of the remaining funds.

If funds are appropriated, this bill would increase revenue for county governments by at least \$35,000 each annually, or \$1,610,000 on a state-wide basis. The revenue must first be used to

pay the elected full-time coroner at least \$35,000. Additional funds may be used to hire a deputy coroner, administrative personnel, or personnel with forensic training or provide an office or office equipment.



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director