



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0489 Introduced on February 7, 2019
Author: Goldfinch
Subject: Coyote Bounty Program
Requestor: Senate Fish, Game, and Forestry
RFA Analyst(s): Gallagher and Gardner
Impact Date: February 26, 2019

Fiscal Impact Summary

The fiscal impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Natural Resources.

The revenue impact on local government is undetermined, because the bill creates a new fine and there is no historical data to estimate the amount of revenue that will be generated from these particular fines.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 7, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill creates and provides funding for a Coyote Bounty Program, which will provide payments for adult coyotes lawfully removed from the state. It removes the requirement that funds from antlered deer tags be used to administer the Coyote Management Program. The bill alters reporting requirements for commercial fur licensees and establishes the time periods a person can lawfully trap certain fur-bearing animals. The bill also permits coyotes to be trapped year-round without a license or permit issued by the department.

The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Natural Resources.

State Revenue

This bill requires a license to sell or take the pelts of certain fur-bearing animals. This bill also requires that a portion of the fees collected for certain hunting, big game, antlered deer tag, sportsman, and combination licenses or permits be remitted to the Coyote Bounty Program for the administration of the program.

The revenue impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Natural Resources.

Local Expenditure

This bill requires that an individual who makes a false claim for a bounty be found guilty of a misdemeanor. Magistrate or municipal courts will likely adjudicate these cases since a conviction of this offense results in a misdemeanor charge. In addition, this bill creates a new offense, as such there is no historical data to estimate the number of cases that will be heard in magistrate or

municipal courts. However, it is not expected to significantly increase the courts caseloads. Therefore, any additional costs as a result of this bill will be managed within each court's existing resources.

Local Revenue

This bill requires an individual who makes a false claim for a bounty to be fined up to \$1,000 upon conviction. Since a conviction of this offense results in a misdemeanor charge, magistrate or municipal courts will likely adjudicate these cases. The revenue impact on local government is undetermined, because the bill creates a new fine and there is no historical data to estimate the amount of revenue that will be generated from these particular fines. Existing law provides for the retention of part or all of the revenue generated from fines by the local jurisdiction processing the case.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director