



**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.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 3281    Introduced on January 10, 2023  
**Author:** Yow  
**Subject:** Hunting and Fishing Licenses  
**Requestor:** House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Miller  
**Impact Date:** January 23, 2023

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill allows an adopted child between the ages of two and fifteen to obtain a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license at no cost if the adopted parents are South Carolina residents and the child's birth mother is or has been a legal South Carolina resident.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as the agency anticipates being able to create and process applications for this license within the normal course of business.

This bill may result in a decrease of Other Fund revenue for DNR of approximately \$1,600 annually beginning in FY 2023-24. This estimate assumes 2 percent, or four adopted children of the 201 combination hunting and fishing licenses issued, qualify to get a lifetime combination license per year at no cost. However, this may be an overstatement as, in addition to being adopted, a child's adoptive parents and birth mother must be legal South Carolina residents. However, data are not available to determine how that may impact the estimated four licenses.

Additionally, the annual grant funding through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration (WSFR) program is distributed among the states based on a proration of annual hunting and fishing licenses purchased. This bill will have no impact on Federal Fund revenues as these four licenses are not anticipated to sufficiently impact the State's hunting and fishing license proration to result in a loss of the annual grant funding through the WSFR program.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on January 10, 2023**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill allows an adopted child between the ages of two and fifteen to obtain a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license at no cost if the adopted parents are South Carolina residents and the child's birth mother is or has been a legal South Carolina resident.

DNR anticipates being able to create and process applications for this license within the normal course of business. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact for DNR.

## State Revenue

This bill allows an adopted child between the ages of two and fifteen to obtain a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license at no cost if the adopted parents are South Carolina residents and the child's birth mother is or has been a legal South Carolina resident.

According to the Adoption Network, approximately 2 percent of children in America are adopted.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, over the last five years, an average of 201 lifetime combination licenses have been issued to children between the ages of two and fifteen. Multiplying 2 percent by 201 children, this bill may result in as many as four lifetime combination licenses being issued to children between the ages of two and fifteen at no cost. The fee for a lifetime combination license for a child between the ages of two and fifteen is \$400. Based on four licenses, this bill may result in a decrease of \$1,600 beginning in FY 2023-24. However, this may be an overstatement as, in addition to being adopted, this bill requires a child's adoptive parents and birth mother to be legal South Carolina residents.

Additionally, the annual grant funding through the WSFR program is distributed among the states based on a proration of annual hunting and fishing licenses purchased. The higher the percentage of licenses, the more federal grant funding is received. A lifetime license counts as an annual license for purposes of this proration until the license holder is approximately 80 years old. However, a lifetime license must have a fee to count in this proration. As this bill eliminates the fee for a lifetime combination license for an adopted child, this bill will impact the States proration of hunting and fishing license. However, as only four licenses will likely be issued for free based on this bill, this is not anticipated to sufficiently impact the proration to result in a loss of funding through the grant program. Therefore, this bill will have no impact to the Federal Fund revenue for the WSRF grant funding.

## Local Expenditure

N/A

## Local Revenue

N/A



<sup>1</sup> <https://adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-myths-facts/domestic-us-statistics/>

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