



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 0890	Introduced on January 9, 2024
Author:	Tedder	
Subject:	Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Gardner	
Impact Date:	March 25, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill creates a new felony offense for knowingly discharging a firearm at or in the direction of one of more individuals. The offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in general sessions court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial. Also, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and Commission on Indigent Defense may increase the workload of the agencies. Both agencies anticipate being able to manage the increase with existing staff and within existing appropriations. However, if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, the agencies will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

This bill may result in an increase in the number of inmates housed by the Department of Corrections. However, no data are available to estimate the increase in the number of inmates that may be housed by Corrections. According to Corrections, in FY 2022-23, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,758, \$34,570 of which was state funded. However, as the potential increase in incarcerations is unknown, any expenditure impact for Corrections is undetermined.

As this bill creates a new offense, this may result in an increase of General Fund, Other Funds and local fine revenue. However, as the number of such offenses and the resulting fines and fees that might occur in a given year is unknown, the revenue impact is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 9, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill creates a new felony offense for knowingly discharging a firearm at or in the direction of one of more individuals. The offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

Judicial. Judicial reports that implementation of the bill may result in an increase in general sessions court caseloads, which can be managed using existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, the bill will result in no expenditure impact for Judicial.

Commission on Prosecution Coordination. This bill creates a new offense, which could result in an increase in the number of warrants that are sent to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor for review, prosecution, and disposition; however, the potential increase in warrants is unknown. Any increase in the number of warrants will result in an increase in the workload. The agency anticipates any increase in workload can be handled with existing staff and appropriations. The agency indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, the agency will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

Commission on Indigent Defense. This bill creates a new offense, which could result in an increase in the number cases handled by the Commission on Indigent Defense. The agency indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the workload, the agency will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

Department of Corrections. This bill may result in an increase in the number of inmates housed by the Department of Corrections. However, no data are available to estimate the increase in the number of inmates that may be housed by Corrections. According to Corrections, in FY 2022-23, the annual total cost per inmate was \$37,758, of which \$34,570 was state funded. However, as the potential increase in incarcerations is unknown, any expenditure impact for Corrections is undetermined. Corrections indicates that if this bill results in a significant increase in the inmate population, the agency will request an increase in General Fund appropriations.

State Revenue

This bill may increase General Fund revenue from fines, as well as Other Funds revenue, due to the increase in fines and fees for the new offense brought in general sessions courts. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year is unknown, the revenue impact is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill may increase local revenue due to the increase in fines and fees for the new offense brought in general sessions courts. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year is unknown, the revenue impact is undetermined.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director