



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3775 Signed by Governor on May 17, 2018
Author: Knight
Subject: Birth Certificates
Requestor: House of Representatives
RFA Analyst(s): A. Martin
Impact Date: July 5, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$165,600	\$57,600
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	1.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Undetermined	Undetermined
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

The bill will increase Other Funds expenditures by \$165,600 in FY 2018-19, and \$57,600 each year thereafter for the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to implement a new electronic registry and employ 1 additional FTE for processing birth records and associated forms.

This bill will increase Other Funds revenue because it allows DHEC to charge a fee for the release of sealed documents to adopted citizens. However, because we are unable to estimate the future demand for these records, the revenue impact is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 17, 2018

State Expenditure

The bill allows a person eighteen years of age or older who was born in South Carolina and whose original birth certificate was sealed due to adoption to receive an uncertified copy of that birth certificate and any evidence of the adoption held with the original record. Along with the original birth records, an adoptee may obtain medical history data and contact information for the adoptee’s biological parent, if any has been provided. DHEC is directed to develop a medical history form and a contact preference form, which must be provided to the biological parent upon request. Upon completion, the forms are filed with the state registrar and issued to the adoptee when the original birth certificate is provided. The bill becomes effective July 1, 2019, and only applies to adoptions finalized after that date.

DHEC estimates non-recurring costs of \$100,000 for an electronic system maintaining the contact preference registry. In addition, DHEC anticipates non-recurring costs of \$8,000 for specialty filing equipment.

DHEC reports that the Division of Vital Records processes an average of 1,500 adoptions each year. DHEC estimates that this bill will require 1 additional program assistant to process the new forms, create sealed files, complete searches, and issue non-certified copies of birth certificates and associated forms. Salary and fringe benefits for the additional FTE is expected to total \$41,000 per year. DHEC anticipates annual operating expenses for the new position will total \$16,600. Overall, this bill will increase Other Funds expenditures by \$165,600 in FY 2019-20, and \$57,600 each year thereafter.

State Revenue

This bill is effective July 1, 2019, and applies only to adoptions finalized after that date. Additionally, an individual must be at least eighteen years of age or older to request the vital records searches and adoption birth certificates. Fees for these records are the same as fees paid by nonadopted citizens. Given these conditions, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office does not anticipate a significant impact on revenue for approximately nineteen years, when the adoptees reach age eighteen or older. We are unable to determine the future demand for these sealed birth certificates and adoption records. Therefore, the revenue impact to Other Funds is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director