



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0196 Signed by Governor on May 13, 2019
Author: Shealy
Subject: Marriage Licenses
Requestor: Senate
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: May 17, 2019

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill repealed Section 20-1-300 relating to the issuance of a license to an unmarried female and male under 18 years of age when female is pregnant or has borne a child. The Judicial Department reports that this bill will not have an expenditure impact to the General Fund, Other Fund, or Federal Funds.

The repeal will result in a minimal loss of funding for the state's Domestic Violence Fund, as a \$20 portion of the marriage license fee is remitted to this fund.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 13, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill repealed provisions allowing probate courts to issue marriage licenses to persons under the age of 18 if the female is pregnant or has had a child with the putative father. Previously, marriage licenses could be issued to these parties when the following conditions were met: the pregnancy or birth has been established by the report or certificate of at least one duly-licensed physician, the two individuals agree to marry, and written consent for the female to marry is given by at least one of her parents, by a legal guardian, or by a local social service representative.

A 2014 study by the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan American fact tank based in Washington, D.C, indicated the ratio of 15 to 17 year-olds married per 1,000 marriages in South Carolina is 3.1.

Judicial Department. While the probate courts are part of the unified judicial system, they are funded by the respective counties in which they are located. Marriage license fees consist of a local charge retained by the county and a \$20 charge that the county must remit to the State Treasurer for deposit into the state's Domestic Violence Fund. As such, the enactment of the bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund related to the department.

State Revenue

The repeal may also result in a minimal loss of funding for the state's Domestic Violence Fund, as a \$20 portion of the marriage license fee is remitted to this fund.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

The repeal of this provision may result in a minimal revenue loss for the counties, as the counties previously were authorized to retain a portion of marriage license fees.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director