



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bill Number:</b>    | H. 4943                                                         |
| <b>Author:</b>         | Hixon                                                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>        | Deer hunting                                                    |
| <b>Requestor:</b>      | House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs |
| <b>RFA Analyst(s):</b> | Wren and Stein                                                  |
| <b>Impact Date:</b>    | February 24, 2016                                               |

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**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

|                                  | <b>FY 2016-17</b> | <b>FY 2017-18</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>State Expenditure</b>         |                   |                   |
| General Fund                     | \$0               | \$0               |
| Other and Federal                | Undetermined      | \$0               |
| Full-Time Equivalent Position(s) | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| <b>State Revenue</b>             |                   |                   |
| General Fund                     | \$0               | \$0               |
| Other and Federal                | Undetermined      | \$0               |
| <b>Local Expenditure</b>         | \$0               | \$0               |
| <b>Local Revenue</b>             | \$0               | \$0               |

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill would have no expenditure or revenue impact on the General Fund. The expenditure and revenue impact on Other Funds and Federal Funds is undetermined.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**State Expenditure**

This bill amends Section 50-9-650 by providing that a person must have immediate access and authorization to utilize deer quota tags to hunt on property with a Deer Quota Program permit. Additionally, this bill expands the permit program by requiring hunters to obtain antlerless and antler restriction deer tags. Also, Section 50-9-920 is amended, which relates to the revenues derived from the sale of non-residential antlered deer tags and resident antler restriction individual deer tags. Section 50-11-315 is added, which states that all deer taken must be tagged and provides the penalties for altering such tags.

**Department of Natural Resources.** The department reports that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund. However, this bill would require an additional expenditure of Other Funds in order to notify the public of the changes in the tagging laws and regulations, to print additional tag sets to comply with each option, and postage for mailing out new tag sets. At this time, it is not known how this bill will affect the buyer demand for the various hunting tags. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the expenditure required to comply with the provisions of this bill. This bill might have an impact on federal funds received by the department. The federal government matches every one dollar in state hunting fee revenue collected by the department with three federal dollars. Currently, the department receives the

maximum federal allocation. The department indicates that if revenues were to decrease due to buyer resistance to the new tag fee system, the federal allocation would be subject to reduction. This impact cannot be estimated at this time.

### **State Revenue**

This bill deletes the need for individual antlerless deer tags, which are currently five dollars for residents and non-residents. Residents will receive eight date-specific individual antlerless deer tags and three unrestricted individual antlered deer tags with the purchase of a state hunting license and a big game permit. Hunters under the age of sixteen, lifetime, and gratis licensees may receive these tags upon request from the Department of Natural Resources. Residents, including persons under the age of sixteen, lifetime, and gratis licensees also may purchase two antler restriction individual antlered deer tags for five dollars per tag. Residents may also purchase additional individual antlerless deer tags at the current fee of five dollars per tag. Non-residents may purchase up to four antlered deer tags, with a fifty dollar fee for the first tag and twenty dollars for each additional tag, with a maximum number of four antlered deer tags. Non-residents may also purchase individual antlerless deer tags for ten dollars each. Eighty percent of the funds received from non-resident antlered deer tags must be used to administer the tag program, for deer management, and for research. The remaining twenty percent must be used for law enforcement. Funds received from the resident antler restriction individual antlered deer tags will be used to administer the Coyote Management Program.

The Department of Natural Resources provided data on the number of resident and non-resident antlerless deer tags issued in FY 2014-15. Assuming non-residents purchase a similar number of antlerless deer tags in FY 2016-17, Other Funds of the department would increase by approximately \$111,000. However, some consideration must be given to buyer resistance for the new fees. Also, the department does not track the number of harvested buck. Therefore, the revenue impact of this bill is undetermined for FY 2016-17.

### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director