



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 1162
Author: Peeler
Subject: Air Ambulance Emergency Services
Requestor: Senate Medical Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Stein and Wren
Impact Date: April 18, 2016

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$335,139	\$83,601
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	1.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures by \$335,139 in FY 2016-17 and by \$83,601 each year thereafter. This bill would have no expenditure impact on Federal Funds or Other Funds. This bill is expected to have no expenditure impact on local governments.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This bill amends Chapter 61, Title 44 relating to emergency medical services by requiring the Department of Health and Environmental Control to create primary and secondary call lists for air ambulance service providers, establish air ambulance response zones, and response protocols. The bill adds regulatory requirements for air ambulance service providers and requires air ambulance services to provide fee schedules upon request. The bill requires hospitals to make reasonable efforts to inform patients of air ambulance fees before referral. The bill requires DHEC to distribute the fee schedule to each licensed hospital. The bill adds Sections 38-71-295 and 42-5-75 which define terms related to the classification of emergency services for the purposes of accident and health insurance policies and workers' compensation policies.

Department of Health and Environmental Control. The department reports that this bill would require one aeromedical coordinator, whose responsibilities would include the following: maintaining and updating of the response zones as well as the primary and secondary call lists, ensuring statewide compliance by dispatchers and hospitals, providing training to 260 EMS agencies, thirty-eight aeromedical services, and 110 dispatch centers, and implementation of the consulting firm's recommendations. Salary, fringe and operating expenditures for this

aeromedical program coordinator is estimated at \$83,601 annually. A one-time nonrecurring expenditure in the first year of this new program is also required to hire a consulting firm to assist with the identification of aeromedical response zones, develop protocols for dispatch in the absence of primary and secondary call lists, recommend training materials, and estimate costs for aeromedical transport within response zones. The cost of a consulting firm is estimated at \$251,538.

Department of Insurance. The department indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

Workers' Compensation Commission. The agency indicates that any additional expenses associated with this bill can be absorbed within current appropriations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office contacted twenty-three county governments and the Municipal Association of South Carolina regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. Barnwell, Greenville, and Hampton counties indicate this bill will have no expenditure impact on their localities. Although only three responses were received from the surveyed counties, we expect no expenditure impact on county governments. The Municipal Association also indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on municipal governments.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director