

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 4371 as amended**
(Doc. No. 13362sd14.docx)

TO: The Honorable Larry A. Martin, Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Rodney P. Grizzle
DATE: April 10, 2014 SBD: 2014214

AUTHOR: Representative Finlay PRIMARY CODE CITE: 15-75-70
SUBJECT: Patents

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
SEE BELOW

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 4371A amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 15-75-70 which provides that no person in the State, in regards to patent ownership and potential patent infringement, may intentionally interfere with the existing contractual relations of another person or intentionally interfere with the prospective contractual relations of another person. This Bill provides for the elements of cause of action in both instances as well as damages which may ensue.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Office of the Attorney General

The Office reports that this Bill will have an impact on the General Fund of the State of approximately \$48,000 annually. This cost is broken down to \$45,500 in personal service/fringe benefits and there would be the remaining \$2,500 in operating cost. The personal service cost is for 0.5 of a State FTE and this position is for an Attorney III with half the annual work load dedicated to the duties assigned with this Bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart
Assistant Director, State Budget Division