



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0976 Introduced on January 14, 2020
Author: Alexander
Subject: Advanced State Constables
Requestor: Senate Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: March 3, 2020

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the State Law Enforcement Division because the activities required by the bill can be accomplished with the use of existing staff and resources and within their existing appropriations.

The Criminal Justice Academy currently has an on-going reserve officer program. As a result, this bill does not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

Of the counties and municipal organizations surveyed, Charleston and Lancaster Counties provided responses on the expected expenditure impact of the bill. Both parties report the bill is expected to have no expenditure impact on county governments. The Municipal Association of South Carolina anticipates the bill will have no expenditure impact on municipal governments.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2020

State Expenditure

This bill creates a new class of law enforcement officer, the advanced state constable. An advanced state constable is defined as a person who is appointed a state constable by the Governor for at least one year, who accepts a designation as requested by a chief law enforcement officer or as approved by the State Law Enforcement Division, and who has successfully completed a course of training established by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council. Advanced state constables must meet an annual service requirement of 240 hours of in-service training, must remain in proximate contact with a designated Level 1 Certified Officer, must wear uniforms that identify them as law enforcement officers, and must use firearms of a type and caliber consistent with law enforcement in the State. Any agency utilizing advanced state constables must have one full-time officer as a coordinator-supervisor who must be directly responsible to the chief law enforcement officer. As advanced state constables are considered state employees, the State Law Enforcement Division must provide them with workers' compensation benefits, and agencies to which they are assigned must carry tort liability insurance coverage. Volunteer state constables are considered non-paid state employees and are subject to the call of the Governor or his designee.

State Law Enforcement Division. This bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency because the agency will administer policies resulting from the bill with the use of existing staff and resources.

Criminal Justice Academy. The bill requires the academy to perform activities that are currently being conducted in the normal course of agency business. As a result, this bill does not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

Of the counties and municipal organizations surveyed, Charleston and Lancaster Counties provided responses on the expected expenditure impact of the bill. Both parties report the bill is expected to have no expenditure impact on county governments. Lancaster County did note that, should a county choose to use the advanced state constable program, an increase in liability insurance premiums may be occur. However, if the increased liability insurance costs were greater than the potential benefit, the county would have the option not to utilize advanced constables. The Municipal Association of South Carolina anticipates the bill will have no expenditure impact on municipal governments.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director