



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 3011 Signed by Governor on May 17, 2021
Author: West
Subject: Driving on the Right Half of the Road
Requestor: House of Representatives
RFA Analyst(s): Griffith and Gardner
Impact Date: November 24, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill prohibits a vehicle from being driven in the farthest left-hand lane of a controlled access highway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. This bill will increase Other Funds expenditures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) by \$24,148 in FY 2021-22 for the installation of signs on roadways to direct slower traffic to move to the right. Once installed, the signs will be maintained within DOT's existing authorizations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) because the agency will use its existing appropriations for programming changes related to the provisions of the bill.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Public Safety because the agency can implement the provisions of the bill with the use of existing staff and current appropriations.

The Other Funds and local revenue impacts are undetermined because there is no data available with which to estimate the amount of revenue that may be generated from the new fine for violations of the provisions of the bill.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 17, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill prohibits a vehicle from being driven in the farthest left-hand lane of a controlled access highway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. This does not apply to emergency vehicles and under certain conditions. A person who is adjudicated to be in violation of the provisions of this bill must be fined no more than \$25, no part of which may be suspended. Additionally, DOT is responsible for placing signage every thirty-five miles along the state's interstate roadways to direct slower traffic to move right.

Department of Transportation. This bill requires DOT to install signage at least every thirty-five miles along interstate roadways to direct slower traffic to keep right. The cost to manufacture each sign is \$109.67 and the cost to install each sign is \$78.99, resulting in a total cost of \$188.66 per sign. DOT estimates that there are 128 additional signs needed to meet the

requirements of the bill. Therefore, the bill will increase Other Funds expenditures of DOT by \$24,148 in FY 2021-22. Once installed, the signs can be maintained within the agency's existing Other Funds authorization.

Department of Public Safety. This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Public Safety because the agency can implement the provisions of the bill with the use of existing staff and current appropriations.

Department of Motor Vehicles. DMV indicates that approximately eight hours of programming are needed for code changes and system testing. However, the department plans to use existing resources and appropriations to complete this change. Therefore, there will be no expenditure impact to DMV.

State Revenue

This bill prohibits a vehicle from being driven in the farthest left-hand lane of a controlled access highway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. A person who is adjudicated to be in violation of the provisions of this bill must be fined no more than \$25, no part of which may be suspended. While there are other states that have similar laws in place, there is significant variability in the number of citations that have been issued in a given year, and there is a broad range of fines that may be assessed. Based on the variability between the number of citations that may be issued and the differences in allowable fines for each state having a similar law, the amount of Other Funds revenue that may be generated from the implementation of this bill is undetermined. The counties will retain a portion of the revenue generated by the fine and must remit the remainder to the State Treasurer for appropriate distribution to various Other Funds.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

This bill prohibits a vehicle from being driven in the farthest left-hand lane of a controlled access highway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. A person who is adjudicated to be in violation of the provisions of this bill must be fined no more than \$25, no part of which may be suspended. While there are other states that have similar laws in place, there is significant variability in the number of citations that have been issued in a given year, and there is a broad range of fines that may be assessed. Based on the variability between the number of citations that may be issued and the differences in allowable fines for each state having a similar law, the amount of local revenue that may be generated from the implementation of this bill is undetermined. The counties will retain a portion of the revenue generated by the fine and must remit the remainder to the State Treasurer for appropriate distribution to various Other Funds.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director