

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3124**

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TO: The Honorable Larry A. Martin, Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Stephen Gardner, Rodney Grizzle
DATE: March 3, 2014 SBD: 2014072

AUTHOR: Representative Bingham PRIMARY CODE CITE: 63-7-315
SUBJECT: Child Abuse

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
Minimal (Some additional costs expected but can be absorbed)

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

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3124 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 63-7-315 so as to prohibit an employer from dismissing, demoting, suspending, or disciplining an employee who reports child abuse or neglect, whether required or permitted to report. The Bill also creates a cause of action for reinstatement and back pay which an employee may bring against an employer who violates this prohibition.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services estimates this Bill will have no fiscal impact on the State General Fund or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

Judicial Department

The Department indicates that this Bill will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which the agency can absorb at their current level of funding. There is no data available to indicate the number of new lawsuits which may be initiated as a result of this Bill; however if the number of new cases created is significant the dockets may be negatively impacted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart
Assistant Director, State Budget Division