

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 274**

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TO: The Honorable Larry A. Martin, Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: Rodney Grizzle and Stephen Gardner
DATE: March 19, 2013 SBD: 2013180

AUTHOR: Senator L. Martin PRIMARY CODE CITE: 16-13-385
SUBJECT: Altering or Tampering with an Electric, Gas or Water Meters

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

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

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 274 amends Sections 16-13-385, 58-7-60 and 58-7-70 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the Altering or Tampering with or bypassing Electric, Gas or Water Meters by restructuring the offenses and providing graduated penalties for violations of the statutes.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The Judicial Department

The Department indicates that this Bill will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at their current level of funding.

The Department of Corrections

The Department indicates that this Bill will have a fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State, but due to the lack of empirical data, the agency is unable to provide a quantitative cost. Due to the potential of having longer sentences for individuals that are convicted under this new law, Corrections contends that their inmate population could significantly increase due to the changes that this Bill proposes.

The South Carolina Public Service Commission

The Commission indicates that this Bill will have no fiscal impact on the State General Fund or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart
Assistant Director, State Budget Division