



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
**(803)734-3780 • RFA.SC.GOV/IMPACTS**

*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.*

---

<b>Bill Number:</b>	S. 0653	Introduced on March 10, 2021
<b>Author:</b>	Allen	
<b>Subject:</b>	Allowing Inmates Funeral Attendance and Hospital Visitation	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate Corrections and Penology	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Gardner	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	March 23, 2021	

---

### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill enables an inmate of a detention facility to, under certain circumstances, be allowed to travel to funeral services for close relatives or to visit seriously ill family members in the hospital. The Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) and representatives of county governments in Chesterfield, Greenwood, and Lancaster indicate that the bill will require cities, towns, or counties to hire additional deputies to provide the transport for approved inmates and to pay mileage for the transport. As there is no data on the number of approved transportation requests that may result from the implementation of the bill, and as the cost of transport will vary depending on the distance between the detention facility and the funeral service or hospital, the overall cost to provide security and transportation cannot be estimated. However, detention facilities will be able to cover the cost of providing required security and transportation by collecting funds from a third party on behalf of an inmate or by charging an inmate's trust account, increasing local revenue. Therefore, we expect that the increase in local expenditures will be offset by the increase in local revenue.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

#### **Introduced on March 10, 2021**

#### **State Expenditure**

N/A

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

Currently, an inmate of a state correctional facility can, when the Department of Corrections finds that the inmate poses no security risk to the public or the institution, attend funeral services for certain family members or visit seriously ill family members in the hospital. The bill provides that inmates of a detention facility may also have this right. The detention facility will be responsible for providing necessary security and transportation of the inmate and must collect from a third party or the inmate's trust account funds to cover the cost of providing those services. When applicable, the detention facility must notify the victim of a crime and their

relatives when the inmate who was the perpetrator of the crime has applied for approval for such transport.

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs contacted MASC and county governments to determine the local expenditure impact of the bill. Representatives of Chesterfield County, the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office, and Lancaster County indicate that a minimum of two deputies, either on- or off-duty, would be needed to transport inmates to funerals or to hospitals. On-duty officers would be paid \$70 per hour, and off-duty officers would be paid \$35 per hour, and all would be given mileage reimbursement at a rate of \$0.575 per mile. In addition, depending on the timing of the inmate's transport, overtime wages for the deputies may be incurred, which could result in a cost of up to \$125 per hour. MASC reports that it expects the bill to have an expenditure impact on cities and towns, regardless of whether they operate their own jails or contract with a county jail for detention. However, due to the lack of data on the number of approved transportation requests that may result from the bill, and as the cost of transport will vary depending on the distance between the detention facility and the funeral service or hospital, the overall cost to provide security and transportation cannot be estimated. The bill does provide that a detention facility may collect funds to cover the cost of security and transportation from a third party on behalf of an inmate or by charging an inmate's trust account. Therefore, we expect that, while the increase is undetermined, any increase in local expenditures will be offset by the increase in local revenue.

### **Local Revenue**

This bill will enable a detention facility to collect funds to cover the cost of providing security and transportation for an inmate attending a funeral or visiting a seriously ill family member in the hospital. These funds may be collected from either a third party on behalf of the inmate or from the inmate's trust account. As there is no data with which to estimate how many transportation requests will be approved, the amount of local revenue that could be collected for this purpose cannot be determined.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director