

South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors

Statement of Estimated State Revenue Impact

Date: February 20, 2009

Bill Number: H.B. 3584

Authors: Harrell; Bingham; Cooper; Harrison, *et. al.*

Committee Requesting Impact: House Ways & Means Committee

Bill Summary

A bill to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 12-21-625 so as to impose a surtax on each cigarette in an amount of two and one-half cents, provide for the crediting of the revenue from the surtax to the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund, the Department of Agriculture for marketing and branding state-grown crops and to assist in relief from natural disasters affecting state-grown crops, the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund, and the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund, provide for reporting, payment, collection, and enforcement of the surtax, and define "cigarette"; to amend Section 12-21-620, relating to the original cigarette tax, so as to conform definitions; by adding Section 11-11-230 so as to create and establish in the state treasury the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund, the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund, and the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund, all so as to receive deposits of the revenues from the cigarette surtax as specified; by adding Chapter 62 to Title 38 so as to create and establish the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Plan, providing for a premium credit not to exceed three thousand dollars to an eligible individual or employer toward the purchase of a qualifying health insurance plan, describing eligibility requirements and the certification process, defining the qualifying individually or employer-sponsored insurance plans, and providing for administration and reporting by the Department of Insurance; and by adding Section 38-74-75 so as to create the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Program, establishing a self-sustaining and financially independent portion of the premium assistance pool, and providing for eligibility requirements, administration, and reporting by the Department of Insurance and operating guidelines.

REVENUE IMPACT ^{1/}

This bill is expected to generate \$147,300,000 in FY2009-10 after a loss of \$1,000,000 for stockpiling. This bill is expected to increase funds in the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund by \$5,000,000 and by \$2,966,000 in the Department of Agriculture with the remaining funds to be allocated to the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund and the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund. Because the higher tax will reduce cigarette demand, cigarette taxes currently allocated to the General Fund will be reduced by an estimated \$4,001,430 in FY2009-10.

Explanation

Section 1. This section would add Section 12-21-625 to impose 50-cent surtax on each pack of 20 cigarettes beginning July 1, 2009 and is expected to generate an estimated \$148,300,000 in FY2009-10. On the advice of the Department of Revenue, we have calculated that the stockpiling of cigarettes from the state excise tax increase would remove an estimated \$1,000,000 of state excise tax revenue from FY2009-10 collections. After adjusting for a loss of \$1,000,000 for stockpiling, this section is expected to generate an estimated \$147,300,000 in FY2009-10. The revenue of the surtax would be credited as follows: \$5,000,000 would be allocated to the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund; one-cent from each pack, or an estimated \$2,966,000 would be credited to the Department of Agriculture to cause the marking or branding of South Carolina agricultural crops or produce as being grown in South Carolina when offered for sale in retail establishments; of the remaining annual revenue, an appropriate amount of funds would be allocated to the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund and the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund. Because the higher tax will reduce cigarette demand, cigarette taxes currently allocated to the General Fund will be reduced by an estimated \$4,001,430 in FY2009-10.

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Section 2. This section amends Section 12-21-620 to provide a definition for the term “cigarette”.

Section 3. This section would create three (3) separate and distinct trust funds. This section would create in the State Treasury a separate and distinct fund styled the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund. Earnings and interest on the fund must be credited to the fund. Each fiscal year, \$5,000,000 credited to the Smoking Prevention and Cessation Trust Fund must be transferred to the Department of Health and Environmental Control to administer a statewide smoking prevention and cessation program. There is also created in the State Treasury a separate and distinct fund styled the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund to receive an appropriate amount of revenue from the surtax on cigarettes. Earnings and interest on the fund must be credited to the fund. The Department of Insurance must transfer the appropriate amount of funds to the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Plan. There is also created in the State Treasury a separate and distinct fund styled the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund. Earnings and interest on the fund must be credited to the fund. Beginning July 1, 2011, and every July first thereafter, the State Treasurer shall make a transfer from the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund to the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Fund in an amount determined by the Board of Economic Advisors in accordance with Section 11-11-230.

Section 4. Of the funds transferred to the Department of Insurance from the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Trust Fund, the department would administer the South Carolina Healthy Families Insurance Plan. Beginning July 1, 2010, individuals meeting the eligibility requirements may receive an insurance premium credit of 75% of the actual cost of a qualifying insurance plan not to exceed \$3,000 per year. A qualified “small employer” may receive an insurance premium credit of 67% of the actual cost of a qualifying insurance plan not to exceed \$3,000 per year. Each year thereafter, the Department of Insurance may adjust the amount of the premium credit, but not to less than 50% of the actual cost of coverage. The qualified individual must earn at or less than 200% of the federal poverty level; has not been covered under a health insurance policy for at least twelve consecutive months before the application; is not eligible for or enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, or any other state or federal government health insurance program; and is between the ages of 19 and 64 years.

Section 5. Of the funds transferred to the Department of Insurance from the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Trust Fund, the department would administer the Palmetto Health Care Safety Net Program. Beginning July 1, 2011, qualified individuals that are at least 19 years of age earning less than 400% of the federal poverty level based on the person’s family status may participate in a managed care, premium-assisted program on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of the annual insurance premium credit changes as the amount of annual family or household incomes change relative to the federal poverty level.

Section 6. Except where otherwise stated, this act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

/s/ WILLIAM C. GILLESPIE, PH.D.

William C. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Chief Economist

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^{1/} This statement meets the requirement of Section 2-7-71 for a state revenue impact by the BEA, or Section 2-7-76 for a local revenue impact or Section 6-1-85(B) for an estimate of the shift in local property tax incidence by the Office of Economic Research.