

South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors

Statement of Estimated State Revenue Impact

Date: May 28, 2008 (As amended May 21, 2008 by the Senate)

Bill Number: S.B. 1141

Authors: McConnell; Rankin; Martin; Leventis, *et. al.*

Committee Requesting Impact: Senate

Bill Summary

A bill to amend Section 12-36-2110, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the calculation of tax on manufactured homes, so as to refine the definition of a manufactured home that is subject to a maximum sales tax because it meets certain energy efficiency standards; and to amend Chapter 52, Title 48, by adding Article 10 so as to establish an incentive program for the purchase and installation of energy efficient manufactured homes in South Carolina.

REVENUE IMPACT ^{1/}

This bill, as amended, is expected to reduce General Fund individual income tax revenue by an estimated \$255,000 in FY2009-10. This amended bill would also reduce sales and use tax by an estimated \$81,000 in FY2009-10. Of this amount, General Fund sales and use tax would be reduced by \$64,800 and E.I.A. funds would be reduced by \$16,200 in FY2009-10.

Explanation of Amendment (May 21, 2008) – By the House LCI Committee

This amendment would amend Section 12-6-3587(A) to allow a taxpayer a nonrefundable income tax credit of twenty-five percent of the costs incurred by the taxpayer for purchase and installation of a small hydropower system that includes all controls, tanks, pumps, heat exchangers, and other equipment used directly and exclusively for a solar energy system. The system must be certified for performance by the nonprofit Solar Rating and Certification Corporation or a comparable entity endorsed by the State Energy Office. A “small hydropower system” is defined as new energy generation capacity that meets licensing standards as defined by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), is a run-of-the-river facility with a capacity not to exceed 5 megawatts (5MW), or consists of a turbine in a pipeline or in an irrigation canal. According to information from the South Carolina Institute for Energy Studies at Clemson University, as many as 15 sites each year may be eligible for the installation of a small hydropower system depending on the receipt of federal and state approval for the sites. The capital cost of installing a small hydropower system will vary depending on the site, but an industry average cost of \$3,000 per kilowatt per hydropower system is an industry estimate. Based upon 15 small hydropower sites receiving federal and state approval and the size of the facility to be constructed, total statewide capital costs may approach \$2,000,000 per each year. The amount of the tax credit may not exceed \$3,500 for each facility or fifty percent of the taxpayer’s liability for that taxable year, whichever is less. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to ten years. Multiplying a nonrefundable income tax credit of \$3,500 by an estimated 15 small hydropower sites would reduce General Fund income tax revenue by an estimated \$52,500 in FY2009-10.

Explanation of Amendment (April 24, 2008) – By the Senate

This amendment would amend Section 12-6-3587(A) to allow a taxpayer a nonrefundable income tax credit of twenty-five percent of the costs incurred by the taxpayer for purchase and installation of systems that maximize energy efficiency such as demand response, daylighting and heat reclaim systems. These solar energy technologies are not currently employed in South Carolina and would not, therefore, have an impact on state General Fund revenue in FY2009-10.

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Explanation of Amendment (April 23, 2008) – By the Senate Finance Committee

This amendment would replace a \$750 rebate to a manufactured housing retail dealership with a nonrefundable individual income tax credit of \$750 to an individual for the purchase of a qualified ENERGY STAR manufactured home purchased between July 1, 2009 and July 1, 2019. The amendment would also exempt a qualified ENERGY STAR manufactured home from any sales tax, effectively eliminating \$300 in sales tax from each manufactured home sold after July 1, 2009. Multiplying an estimated 270 manufactured homes by a \$750 nonrefundable income tax credit would reduce General Fund individual income tax revenue by an estimated \$202,500 in FY2009-10. Also, multiplying 270 manufactured homes by \$300 sales tax exemption would reduce sales and use tax by an estimated \$81,000 in FY2009-10. This amendment also changed the effective date of the act from “upon approval of the Governor” to July 1, 2009.

Explanation of Bill filed February 21, 2008

This bill would add Section 48-52-870 to establish the Energy Efficient Manufactured Homes Incentive Program to provide a financial incentive for the purchase and installation of energy efficient manufactured homes. A retail dealership licensed by the South Carolina Manufactured Housing Board that sells a manufactured home that has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as meeting or exceeding each agency’s ENERGY STAR program would be eligible for a \$750 rebate. ENERGY STAR efficient manufactured homes are priced \$3,000 to \$5,000 higher than typical energy efficient manufactured homes designed to the older energy efficient standards. We anticipate that the \$750 dealer rebate would be used to lower the price of the manufactured home to encourage the sale of these homes and the rebate incentive would remain with the dealer. The dealer would submit a rebate application to the S.C. Energy Office to claim the rebate. Upon verification, the Energy Office would compensate the manufactured home dealer for the sale of the ENERGY STAR energy efficient manufactured home. This bill also amends Section 12-36-2110(B) to replace older energy efficiency standards with those designated by the U.S. EPA and the U.S. DOE under the ENERGY STAR program. This bill does not change the sales tax calculation on the purchase of a manufactured home; however, because the sales price of the manufactured home would be reduced by \$750 there would be a loss of sales tax revenue. If an estimated ten percent of new manufactured homes sold meet the ENERGY STAR program requirements, multiplying \$750 by a two percent sales tax rate by 270 manufactured homes sold would reduce sales and use tax by an estimated \$4,050 in FY2008-09. The Energy Office would need to have sufficient funds on hand to compensate all manufactured home dealers rebate requests. Based on the above analysis, the General Assembly would need to appropriate \$202,500 to the Energy Office to fulfill all rebate requests. If the amount of rebate applications exceeds the funds on hand, the General Assembly would need to appropriate additional funds to cover the rebates. This bill will establish an open-ended appropriation.

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

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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.