**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 974**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Bennett

Companion/Similar bill(s): 4045

Document Path: LC-0468SA24.docx

Introduced in the Senate on January 18, 2024

Introduced in the House on February 27, 2024

Last Amended on February 21, 2024

Currently residing in the Senate

Summary: Accredited institutions

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/18/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 3](h:\sj\20240118.docx))

1/18/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 3](h:\sj\20240118.docx))

2/14/2024 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 10](h:\sj\20240214.docx))

2/21/2024 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20240221.docx))

2/21/2024 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20240221.docx))

2/21/2024 Senate Roll call Ayes-45 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20240221.docx))

2/22/2024 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 10](h:\sj\20240222.docx))

2/27/2024 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 32](h:\hj\20240227.docx))

2/27/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 32](h:\hj\20240227.docx))

5/1/2024 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works**

5/7/2024 House Requests for debate-Rep(s). Erickson, Hiott, Carter, Hixon, Guffey, B Newton, Sessions, MM Smith, BL Cox, West, Long ([House Journal‑page 131](h:\hj\20240507.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=974&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/18/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/974_20240118.docx)

[02/14/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/974_20240214.docx)

[02/14/2024-A](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/974_20240214a.docx)

[02/21/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/974_20240221.docx)

[05/01/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/974_20240501.docx)

Committee Report

May 01, 2024

S. 974

Introduced by Senator Bennett

S. Printed 05/01/24--H.

Read the first time February 27, 2024

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The committee on House Education and Public Works

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 974) to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Sections 59‑104‑20, 59‑149‑10, and 59‑150‑370, all relating to the definition of “Public Or Independent Institution”, etc., respectfully

Report:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass:

SHANNON ERICKSON for Committee.

statement of estimated fiscal impact

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This bill adds ACCSC accredited institutions to the definition of public or independent institutions for the purposes of extending Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship funding to qualifying students attending those institutions.

This bill may result in additional requirements for CHE in their facilitation of scholarship disbursements. CHE and the Tech System indicate that any additional responsibilities as a result of the bill will be managed with existing staff and resources. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on CHE or the Tech System.

As follows are the accredited institutions in the state whose students would qualify for scholarship funding under this bill:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Institution** | **Location** |
| American College of the Building Arts | Charleston |
| Laurel Institute of Technology | Fort Mill |
| Miller-Motte Technical College | Charleston |
| Miller-Motte Technical College | Conway |
| Miller-Motte Technical College | Summerville |
| Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics | Myrtle Beach |
| Southeastern College | North Charleston |
| Southeastern College | Columbia |

Source: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

CHE is responsible for licensure and oversight of each ACCSC accredited institution. According to the agency, enrollment across all eight institutions totaled 895 students in the fall semester of 2023. CHE does not collect academic information from these institutions, and therefore, the current number of students who would qualify for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, or Hope Scholarships is currently unknown. If all enrolled students qualified for the largest scholarship award available, Palmetto Fellows, in the amount of $6,700 per student per academic year, this could increase annual scholarship disbursements by at least $5,996,500. The maximum Palmetto Fellows scholarship award increases to $7,500 per student in their second academic year and each year thereafter, which could further increase the impact to scholarship disbursements. However, it is unlikely that every student attending ACCSC accredited institutions would qualify for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, or Hope scholarships, and therefore, the impact on total scholarship disbursements would be lower.

For reference, the following table represents the possible impact on FY 2022-23 scholarship disbursements if students attending ACCSC accredited institutions had qualified for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope scholarships. These figures include the amount appropriated and actual disbursements for each scholarship in FY 2022-23 and are based on 895 additional students receiving the maximum first-year award for each category of scholarship.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Possible Impact of ACCSC Institutions on FY 2022-23 Scholarship Disbursements** | | | | |
|  | Appropriations | Disbursements | Maximum Possible Increase in Disbursements to ACCSC Institutions | |
| Palmetto Fellows | $72,139,864 | $72,387,226 | $5,996,500 | 8.3% |
| LIFE | $235,150,272 | $205,884,137 | $4,475,000 | 2.2% |
| Hope | $10,904,039 | $12,563,028 | $2,506,000 | 19.9% |

Source: Commission on Higher Education, FY 2022-23 Annual Appropriations Act

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTIONS 59‑104‑20, 59‑149‑10, AND 59‑150‑370, ALL RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF “PUBLIC OR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION” FOR PURPOSES OF THE PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS, THE LEGISLATIVE INCENTIVES FOR FUTURE EXCELLENCE (LIFE) SCHOLARSHIPS, AND THE SC HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS, RESPECTIVELY, SO AS TO ADD AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF CAREER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES TO THE DEFINITION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑104‑20(F)(1) of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(c) not for profit institutions accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

SECTION 2. Section 59‑149‑10(B) of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(3) not for profit institutions accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

SECTION 3. Section 59‑150‑370(B) of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

(3) not for profit institutions accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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