



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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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.

Bill Number:	S. 0974	Introduced on January 18, 2024
Author:	Bennett	
Subject:	Accredited Institutions	
Requestor:	Senate Education	
RFA Analyst(s):	Tipton	
Impact Date:	February 5, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill extends Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship funding to qualifying students attending institutions in the state accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

This bill will have no impact on the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) or the SC Technical College System (Tech System), as both entities indicate any additional requirements as a result of the bill will be managed with existing resources.

This bill will increase Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope scholarship disbursements by an undetermined amount. According to CHE, 895 students attended an ACCSC accredited institution in the state in the fall semester of 2023. If all students qualified for the largest scholarship award, Palmetto Fellows, total annual scholarship disbursements would increase by at least \$5,996,500. 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.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 18, 2024

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

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure & Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director