



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 4701 Amended by House Education and Public Works on February 20, 2018
Author: S. Rivers
Subject: BP Act
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Powell and Wren
Impact Date: February 26, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	See Below	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. This bill could increase expenses of local school districts by an amount up to \$325,000, beginning in FY 2018-19 for expenses related to procedures for remediation and professional development. While the amendment makes changes to the definition of bullying and to the procedures school districts are required to develop, the Department of Education indicated that these changes were not substantial enough to affect their previous estimates. Expenses for local school districts could further increase if schools need to hire additional counselors to implement the provisions of this bill, or if districts choose to implement a school wide anti-bullying program.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the K-12 Education Subcommittee of the House Education and Public Works Committee on February 20, 2018

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the list of components that local school districts must include in the policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. The additions include procedures for responding to reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, procedures for remediation, and procedures for appealing a decision related to taking or not taking remedial action in accordance with the policy. Notice of the right to appeal must be provided to parents, guardians, and students. The appeals procedure must be consistent with other appeals procedures established by the school board and may include an appeal to the superintendent. The amendment expands the

definition of “harassment, intimidation, or bullying” to include substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, substantially disrupting or interfering with the orderly operation of the school, and other similar items. It also expands the definition of school to include school buses, bus stops, school sponsored activities, and other programs or functions where the school is responsible for the child. The amendment further charges school districts with the responsibility for identifying personnel charged with addressing complaints and requires the development of written procedures for documentation and notification of parents. The amendment further clarifies the manner of remediation after bullying incidents by allowing the school district to adopt a policy to refer individuals involved in bullying incidents for outside services.

The Department of Education indicates that this bill affects local school districts and will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Department of Education indicates that this bill could increase expenses to local school districts by an amount up to \$325,000. These expenses relate to procedures for remediation and the associated professional development for counseling and mediation, evidence based curriculum and programs, and restorative practices. While the amendment makes changes to the definition of bullying and to the procedures school districts are required to develop, the Department of Education indicated that these changes are not substantial enough to affect the estimates previously provided. The department indicates that in FY 2015-16, districts reported a combined 2,706 bullying and cyberbullying incidents. Based on these figures, the average estimated cost of counseling services to districts could be \$120 per student, which is \$40 per hour for three hours of counseling, for a total of approximately \$325,000. Also, the department indicates that expenses could increase beyond the estimated \$325,000 if districts have to hire additional counselors or school psychologists to implement the provisions of this bill. The average yearly school psychologist salary in the state is between \$37,754 and \$56,631. Additionally, expenses would also increase if districts choose to implement a school wide anti-bullying program. The estimated cost for an anti-bullying program is \$2.25 per student.

Local Revenue

N/A

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 24, 2018

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the list of components that local school districts must include in the policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. The additions include procedures for responding to reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, procedures for remediation, and procedures for appealing a decision related to taking or not taking remedial action in accordance with the policy. Notice of the right to appeal must be provided to parents, guardians, and

students. The appeals procedure must be consistent with other appeals procedures established by the school board and may include an appeal to the superintendent.

The Department of Education indicates that this bill affects local school districts and will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Department of Education indicates that this bill could increase expenses to local school districts by an amount up to \$325,000. These expenses relate to procedures for remediation and the associated professional development for counseling and mediation, evidence based curriculum and programs, and restorative practices. The department indicates that in FY 2015-16, districts reported a combined 2,706 bullying and cyberbullying incidents. Based on these figures, the average estimated cost of counseling services to districts could be \$120 per student, which is \$40 per hour for three hours of counseling, for a total of approximately \$325,000. Also, the department indicates that expenses could increase beyond the estimated \$325,000 if districts have to hire additional counselors or school psychologists to implement the provisions of this bill. The average yearly school psychologist salary in the state is between \$37,754 and \$56,631. Additionally, expenses would also increase if districts choose to implement a school wide anti-bullying program. The estimated cost for an anti-bullying program is \$2.25 per student.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director