



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	H. 4403	Introduced on April 4, 2019
Author:	Bennett	
Subject:	Bullying	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Wren	
Impact Date:	April 29, 2019	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Department of Education (SDE) since the bill requires the agency to perform activities in the normal course of business.

This bill will have an undetermined expenditure impact on local school districts. Although the bill does not require school districts to implement any specific disciplinary actions, interventions, or to refer students to outside services, districts may choose an intervention or service that has an associated expense. These expenses will vary by school district.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on April 4, 2019

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the list of components that local school districts must include in their policies' 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 bill 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. Also, the bill 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. Additionally, the bill clarifies the manner of remediation after bullying incidents by allowing a school district to adopt a policy to refer individuals involved in bullying incidents for outside services. Further, the bill requires the State Board of Education to denote requirements that must be met in policies adopted by local school districts. Local districts must adopt policies that are at least as stringent as the model policies. The state Superintendent must approve local policies to ensure that they meet minimum requirements. If local policies fail to meet the minimum requirements, the model policy must become the policy of the local school district.

SDE indicates that this bill requires the agency to perform activities that can be conducted within the normal course of business. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill adds to the list of components that local school districts must include in their policies' 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 bill 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. Also, the bill 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. Additionally, the bill clarifies the manner of remediation after bullying incidents by allowing a school district to adopt a policy to refer individuals involved in bullying incidents for outside services. Further, the bill requires the State Board of Education to denote requirements that must be met in policies adopted by local school districts. Local districts must adopt policies that are at least as stringent as the model policies. The state Superintendent must approve local policies to ensure that they meet minimum requirements. If local policies fail to meet the minimum requirements, the model policy must become the policy of the local school district.

SDE indicates that the bill will have an undetermined expenditure impact on local school districts. Although the bill does not require school districts to implement any specific disciplinary actions, interventions, or to refer students to outside services, districts may choose an intervention or service that has an associated expense. These expenses will vary by district.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director