



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3464 Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author: Gilliam
Subject: Seizure Safe Schools Act
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Wren
Impact Date: April 30, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires public schools to develop a seizure action plan for students diagnosed with a seizure disorder and to provide training to school personnel and volunteers who have direct contact with such students. The State Department of Education (SDE) must develop and post on its website an informational poster on seizure first aid for public and private schools.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on SDE since the agency can accomplish the requirements of the bill within existing appropriations.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools since we anticipate that the schools will be able to accomplish the requirements of the bill within existing appropriations.

This bill will have an undetermined expenditure impact on local school districts. However, some districts indicate that the bill could increase expenses by a range of \$1,000 to \$1,960,000 per district for legal and policy development of a seizure action plan, training materials for school personnel, and for more nursing staff to meet the needs of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. Due to the varying responses from the school districts, the local expenditure impact is undetermined. Any expenses will ultimately depend upon the policy regarding seizures developed by the State Board of Education, the number of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder by district, and any required training for district personnel.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill requires public schools to develop a seizure action plan for students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. Schools must keep each seizure action plan on file in the office of a school administrator or school nurse and make the plan available to school personnel and, with permission of the parent, a volunteer responsible for the supervision of the student.

The bill also requires at least one employee in each school to be trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure medication. Each school district must adopt minimum training requirements for these employees and any volunteers that may supervise students with seizure disorders. Each school district must also adopt a policy outlining the requirements of a seizure education program for all school personnel having direct contact with students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade. The seizure education program must be administered on an annual basis in each public school. Additionally, each district must adopt a policy requiring all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers in the school to complete at least one hour of self-study review on seizure disorder materials annually and must select the materials for study. Further, each public school must display at least one informational poster on seizure first aid in a visible, high traffic area.

Additionally, the bill requires SDE to develop and post on its website an informational poster on seizure first aid and to provide the poster to all public and private schools at no charge. The State Board of Education must develop a policy regarding seizures for all schools under its control.

State Department of Education. SDE indicates that it can accomplish the requirements of the bill within existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

State Agency Schools. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that any expenses associated with the development and administration of a seizure education plan can be accomplished within existing appropriations. The Governor's Office for the Arts and Humanities indicates that the school currently adheres to the provisions of the bill by having student emergency plans and training for school personnel. Based upon these responses, we anticipate similar responses from the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and the School for the Deaf and Blind. Therefore, we do not expect this bill will have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill requires public schools to develop a seizure action plan for students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. Schools must keep each seizure action plan on file in the office of a school administrator or school nurse and make the plan available to school personnel and, with permission of the parent, a volunteer responsible for the supervision of the student.

The bill also requires at least one employee in each school to be trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure medication. Each school district must adopt minimum training requirements for these employees and any volunteers that may supervise students with seizure disorders. Each school district must also adopt a policy outlining the requirements of a seizure education program for all school personnel having direct contact with students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade. The seizure education program must be administered on

an annual basis in each public school. Additionally, each district must adopt a policy requiring all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers in the school to complete at least one hour of self-study review on seizure disorder materials annually and must select the materials for study. Further, each public school must display at least one informational poster on seizure first aid in a visible, high traffic area. SDE must develop the poster and provide the poster on its website at no charge to public and private schools.

SDE surveyed the seventy-nine regular school districts and the two charter districts and received responses from thirty districts. Seventeen of the districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since they are either currently adhering to the provisions of the bill or can manage the requirements of the bill within their existing budgets. Eight of the responding districts indicate that the bill could increase expenses by a range of \$1,000 to \$1,960,000 per district for legal and policy development of a seizure action plan, training materials for school personnel, and for more nursing staff to meet the needs of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The remaining five responding districts indicate that the bill could increase expenses for training for school personnel but could not determine an amount. Due to the varying responses from the school districts, the local expenditure impact is undetermined. Any expenses will ultimately depend upon the policy regarding seizures developed by the State Board of Education, the number of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder by district, and any required training for district personnel.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director