



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** S. 0945 Amended by House Education and Public Works on May 3, 2022  
**Author:** Hembree  
**Subject:** School Board Meetings  
**Requestor:** House of Representatives  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Wren  
**Impact Date:** May 9, 2022

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

*The amended bill will affect overall state and local expenditures and revenues as follows:*

#### Section 1

This section of the amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure the entirety of meetings of its full governing body are accessible to the public and also available by means of livestream transmission. The State Board of Education must adopt a model policy to comply with the provisions of the bill.

This section will have no expenditure impact on the State Department of Education (SCDE), as any expenses associated with developing a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed within existing appropriations.

This section will increase expenses of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities by \$2,500 to upgrade its current audio equipment in order to livestream board meetings. The section will have no expenditure impact on Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and Blind, or the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School since they currently livestream board meetings or have a plan in place to livestream the meetings. Further, all state agency schools indicate there would be no expenditure impact to provide in-person participation at board meetings since they currently offer in-person participation by the public. However, the expenditure impact of the bill could change depending upon the type of model policy adopted by the State Board of Education.

The overall expenditure impact of this section on local districts is undetermined. However, SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-seven regular school districts and the two charter districts regarding any potential increase in expenditures to ensure meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission. The majority of the responding districts indicated that this portion of the bill would have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings, while some of the responding districts indicated expenses would increase by a range of \$900 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff for this portion of the bill. Due to the varying responses from the responding districts and because the

policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education is not yet available, the expenditure impact of this portion of the amended bill on local school districts is undetermined. Further, the South Carolina School Boards Association indicates that the portion of the bill that prohibits school boards from preventing in-person participation at school board meetings will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since all school boards currently offer in-person meetings for the public.

Penalties for violations or noncompliance with requirements of this section may not exceed 1 percent of state funds. The revenue impact on local school districts and special school districts for violations of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of the amended bill. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by District from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, 1 percent of projected state funds to districts ranges from approximately \$43,500 to \$5,080,400 for FY 2021-22.

### Section 2

This section of the amended bill requires the governing body of schools to adopt a local policy regarding library materials.

The overall expenditure impact of this section on the state agency schools is pending, contingent upon responses from the School for the Deaf and Blind and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. However, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicate that these sections will have no expenditure impact since they can adhere to the provisions within existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates the potential the need to hire 1.0 FTE to manage the provisions of this section and field questions regarding curriculum in Section 3 of the bill.

SCDE indicates that the districts will be able to comply with the provisions of this section within their existing budgets. Therefore, this section is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the local school districts.

### Sections 3 and 4

These sections of the amended bill enact the South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act and provide requirements that local education agencies must follow in developing curriculum, providing access to information on that curriculum, and methods for reporting violations. Further, these sections require schools to provide each parent with a printed Pledge of Parental Expectations.

These sections will have an undetermined expenditure impact on SCDE. The agency indicates that it can manage the new responsibilities associated with the creation of the complaint form, the creation of model lesson plans, the development of the Pledge of Parental Expectations, and the additional reporting requirements with existing staff and current appropriations. However, the State Board of Education may experience an increase in the number of hearings from complaints as a result of this bill and may need an additional hearing officer to assist with complaints. The number of new complaints that may be brought before the board and the potential impact on expenses are unknown.

The expenditure impact of these sections on the state agency schools overall is undetermined. The Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate no expenditure impact since they can adhere to the provisions of these sections within existing appropriations. The Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics indicates the potential need to hire 1.0 FTE to handle inquiries regarding curriculum depending on how many inquiries are received and to also fulfill the duties of Section 2. The Governor’s School for Agriculture at John de la Howe previously indicated on similar legislation that the legislation would have no expenditure impact.

The overall expenditure impact of these sections on the local school districts is undetermined and is expected to vary from no impact to up to \$385,900 per district. SCDE surveyed the seventy-seven regular districts and the two charter districts regarding the expenditure impact and received responses from eleven districts. Five of the responding districts indicate no expenditure impact. The remaining six districts indicate that these sections could increase expenses by a range of \$65,000 to \$385,900 per district for additional personnel and for training for teachers and administrators. The number of new personnel needed also ranges from one up to seven per district for education coordinators to create and post all curriculum materials, assistant superintendents to investigate complaints, and for administrative support to gather data for annual reporting requirements.

Additionally, SCDE previously indicated on similar legislation that any expenses for schools to print the Pledge of Parental Expectations for each parent who enrolls a student in the school could be managed within the existing budgets of the districts.

The revenue impact of these sections on the state agency schools and local school districts for the withholding of 5 percent of State Aid to Classroom funds due to noncompliance is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of these sections. Based on FY 2021-22 appropriations, 5 percent of State Aid to Classrooms ranges from \$47,800 to \$15,389,700 per district.

## **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Amended by House Education and Public Works on May 3, 2022**

### **State Expenditure**

#### Section 1

This section of the amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure the entirety of meetings of its regularly scheduled or special called meetings of its full governing body are accessible to the public and also available by means of livestream transmission. Lawful executive sessions are excluded from this provision. If a governing body cannot provide or restore livestream transmission during the meeting, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting and place the recording on its website no more than two business days after the meeting.

The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district, charter school, or special school.

The governing body of each public school, charter school, and special school must adopt a local policy within three months after adoption of the policy by the State Board of Education. Local policies must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education model policy. Any revisions to the State Board of Education's model policy or local policies must be adopted and incorporated in the same manner as the original requirements. A governing body may only adopt or revise its local policy or make changes at a regularly scheduled meeting, which must be successfully livestreamed. Further, a governing body may not adopt or follow a livestream policy that prevents in-person participation by the public, except as may be necessary for the orderly transaction of business. In the event that a governing body is unable to provide live electronic public access despite reasonable efforts, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement. However, the State Board of Education must establish a date that the governing body must have such access in place and operating. The provisions of the amended bill must be implemented for the 2022-23 school year.

**State Department of Education.** SCDE indicates that any expenses to adopt a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed within existing appropriations. Therefore, this section of the amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**State Agency Schools.** The state agency schools provided the following regarding the expenditure impact of this section of the amended bill:

- The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe previously indicated that any expenses associated with livestreaming board meetings would be minimal and could be managed within existing appropriations. Additionally, the agency has space available for in-person participation by the public for meetings.
- The School for the Deaf and Blind Mathematics previously indicated no expenditure impact since the agency currently has the capability to livestream meetings. Additionally, the agency currently holds in-person board meetings.
- The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated no expenditure impact since the agencies currently have the capability to livestream meetings. Additionally, the agency currently provides opportunities for the public to speak at board meetings.
- The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School previously indicated no expenditure impact since the agency has a plan in place to livestream meetings and to provide a video recording of meetings. There would also be no impact related to in-person meetings for the public.
- The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities previously indicated that this portion of the bill would increase the agency's expenses by \$2,500 to upgrade its current audio equipment. Also, the agency has space available for in-person meetings.

Additionally, the expenditure impact of the bill could change depending upon the type of model policy adopted by the State Board of Education.

## Section 2

This section requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and the special schools, to adopt a local policy that must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education's "Best Practices Model Policy for SBE Library Materials" and the "Reconsideration of Library Media Center Materials Form" that is in place as of March 30, 2022. Within thirty days after adoption of a local policy or revision, a governing body must submit a copy of the policy or revision to the State Superintendent of Education for State Board of Education approval.

**State Agency Schools.** The overall expenditure impact of this section on the state agency schools is pending, contingent upon responses from the School for the Deaf and Blind and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. However, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicate that these sections will have no expenditure impact since they can adhere to the provisions within existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates the potential need to hire 1.0 FTE to manage the provisions of this section and the requirements of Sections 3 and 4.

## Sections 3 and 4

These sections of the amended bill enact the South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act and provide requirements that local education agencies must follow in developing curriculum, providing access to information on that curriculum, and methods for reporting violations. Local education agency is defined as a local education agency, the sponsor of a public charter school, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and the School for the Deaf and Blind.

These sections also require SCDE to create and make accessible model lesson plans for local education agencies to utilize in all grades and subject areas. Additionally, SCDE must create a complaint form that contains certain information for local education agencies to post on their website for use when an individual files a complaint alleging violations of the provisions of the amended bill.

These sections require each local education agency to provide specified information on its website announcing the rights of parents to review curriculum and other material, information regarding violations and complaints related to the provisions of this bill, the aforementioned complaint form, and instructions for filing an appeal of the local education agency to SCDE.

Additionally, these sections further require each local education agency to provide a report containing certain information to SCDE before July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter. SCDE must then provide a report summarizing this information to the General Assembly before July 1, 2022, and each year thereafter. Before the 2027-28 school year, each local education agency must compile and provide records of specified information that encompass the previous five school years in the above noted annual report. Before the 2022-23 school year, SCDE must

create, and each local education agency must adopt, a policy for procedures used to report and investigate an alleged violation of this section of the amended bill.

These sections also outline the appeal process with the State Board of Education and allows SCDE to withhold up to 5 percent of a local education agency's funds appropriated as part of the State Aid to Classrooms if it is determined that the local education agency knowingly violated or failed to adhere to the corrective action plans pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

The State Superintendent of Education must make arrangements for a thirty-day public review of materials recommended by the instructional materials review panels before taking the recommendations to the State Board of Education. Public review sites must be geographically distributed around the state and must be advertised in the newspaper, on the website of SCDE, and on social media sites used by SCDE.

Further, these sections require schools to provide each parent who enrolls a child in the school a printed Pledge of Parental Expectations that must be developed by SCDE. Schools must encourage parents to sign the pledge and emphasize its importance during any orientation or open house events.

**State Department of Education.** SCDE previously indicated that the agency could manage the additional responsibilities to create the complaint form, to create the model lesson plans, to develop the Pledge of Parental Expectations, and for reporting requirements with existing staff and current appropriations. SCDE further indicated that these sections may result in an increase in the number of hearings from complaints that are brought before the State Board of Education. As a result, the board may need an additional hearing officer to assist with complaints. However, the expenditure impact of this portion of the amended bill is undetermined and will depend on the number of additional complaints that may be brought before the board. Therefore, the overall expenditure impact on SCDE is undetermined.

**State Agency Schools.** The overall expenditure impact on the state agency schools is undetermined. However, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School previously indicated that these sections of the amended bill would have no expenditure impact since the agencies could adhere to the provisions of these sections within existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated that the expenditure impact of these sections is undetermined since it is unknown how many inquiries the agency may receive regarding curriculum. Further, the agency indicated that if it experiences a large volume of inquiries, the agency may need to hire 1.0 FTE to handle the workload. This FTE will also fulfill the responsibilities in Section 2 of the bill. Additionally, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe previously indicated on similar legislation that any expenses could be managed within existing appropriations.

## **State Revenue**

### **Section 1**

This section of the amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public and also by means of livestream transmission. The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district, charter school, or special school with escalating tiers based on frequency, duration, and severity that the State Board of Education determines reasonable and necessary. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by District from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, 1 percent of projected state funds to districts ranges from approximately \$43,500 to \$5,080,400 for FY 2021-22.

The revenue impact on the special school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district.

### **Sections 3 and 4**

As previously mentioned, these sections allow SCDE to withhold up to 5 percent of a local education agency's funds appropriated as part of the State Aid to Classrooms if it is determined that the local education agency knowingly violated or failed to adhere to the corrective action plans pursuant to the provisions of the bill. The revenue impact is undetermined as it is unknown if any of the special agency schools will not comply with the provisions of these sections.

## **Local Expenditure**

### **Section 1**

As noted above, this section of the amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public and through livestream transmission.

The overall expenditure impact of this amended bill on local districts is undetermined. However, SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-seven regular school districts and the two charter districts regarding any potential increase in expenditures to ensure meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission. SCDE received responses from forty-five districts. Of the responding districts, thirty indicated that this section of the bill would have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings. Two districts indicated that this section would increase expenses but could not quantify the cost. The remaining thirteen responding districts indicated expenses would increase by a range of \$900 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff for this section of the bill. Due to the varying responses from the responding districts and because the type of policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education is not yet available, the expenditure impact of this section of the amended bill on local school districts is undetermined.

Further, the South Carolina School Boards Association indicates that the portion of the bill that prohibits school boards from preventing in-person participation at school board meetings will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since all school boards currently offer in-person meetings for the public. The only time meetings have not been offered in-person was during the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, meetings were available to the public through livestream or Zoom.

### Section 2

This section requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and the special schools, to adopt a local policy that must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education's "Best Practices Model Policy for SBE Library Materials" and the "Reconsideration of Library Media Center Materials Form" that is in place as of March 30, 2022. Within thirty days after adoption of a local policy or revision, a governing body must submit a copy of the policy or revision to the State Superintendent of Education for State Board of Education approval.

SCDE indicates that the school districts can manage the provisions of this section within their existing budgets. Therefore, this section is not expected to have an expenditure impact on local school districts.

### Sections 3 and 4

As noted above, these sections enact the South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act and require each local education agency to post certain information on its website and to report specified information to SCDE.

SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-seven regular districts and the two charter districts regarding the expenditure impact of similar legislation and received responses from eleven districts. Five of the responding districts indicated no impact. The remaining six districts indicated that the legislation could increase expenses by a range of \$65,000 to \$385,900 per district for additional personnel and for training for teachers and administrators. The number of new personnel needed also ranged from one up to seven per district for education coordinators to create and post all curriculum materials, assistant superintendents to investigate complaints, and for administrative support to gather data for annual reporting requirements. Due to the limited number and the varying responses, the expenditure impact of these sections of the amended bill on local school districts is undetermined.

Additionally, these sections require schools to provide each parent a printed Pledge of Parental Expectations, encourage parents to sign the pledge, and emphasize the importance of the pledge during any orientation or open house events.

SCDE previously indicated on similar legislation that any expenses associated with printing the Pledge of Parental Expectations could be managed within the existing budgets of the school districts. Therefore, this portion of the amended bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on local school districts.

In summary, the overall expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts is undetermined and will vary by district.

## **Local Revenue**

### Section 1

The revenue impact on local school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it will depend on how many districts do not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by District from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, 1 percent of projected state funds to districts ranges from approximately \$43,500 to \$5,080,400 for FY 2021-22.

### Sections 3 and 4

As previously mentioned, these sections of the amended bill allow SCDE to withhold up to 5 percent of a local education agency's funds appropriated as part of the State Aid to Classrooms if it is determined that the local education agency knowingly violated or failed to adhere to the corrective action plans pursuant to the provisions of the bill. This provision may impact local funds from State Aid to Classrooms. However, the impact will depend on the number of districts that violate the requirements of these sections of the amended bill.

## **Amended by Senate Education on March 30, 2022**

### **State Expenditure**

This amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure the entirety of meetings of its regularly scheduled or special called meetings of its full governing body are accessible to the public and also available by means of livestream transmission. Lawful executive sessions are excluded from this provision. If a governing body cannot provide or restore livestream transmission during the meeting, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting and place the recording on its website no more than two business days after the meeting.

The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district, charter school, or special school.

The governing body of each public school, charter school, and special school must adopt a local policy within three months after adoption of the policy by the State Board of Education. Local policies must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education model policy. Any revisions to the State Board of Education's model policy or local policies must be adopted and incorporated in the same manner as the original requirements. A governing body may only adopt or revise its local policy or make changes at a regularly scheduled meeting, which must be successfully livestreamed. Further, a governing body may not adopt or follow a livestream policy that prevents in-person participation by the public, except as may be necessary for the orderly transaction of business. The provisions of the bill must be implemented before July 1, 2023.

**State Department of Education.** SCDE indicates that any expenses to adopt a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed within existing appropriations. Therefore, the amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**State Agency Schools.** The overall expenditure impact of this amended bill on the state agency schools is pending, contingent upon responses from the agencies regarding any potential increase in expenditures to ensure that their livestream policy does not prevent in-person participation by the public at meetings.

However, the state agency schools provided the following regarding the expenditure impact to ensure their meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission:

- The Governor’s School for Agriculture at John de la Howe previously indicated that any expenses associated with livestreaming board meetings would be minimal and could be managed within existing appropriations.
- The School for the Deaf and Blind and the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated that the bill would have no expenditure impact since the agencies currently have the capability to livestream meetings.
- The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School previously indicated that the bill would also have no expenditure impact since the agency has a plan in place to livestream meetings and to provide a video recording of meetings.
- The Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities indicates that this portion of the bill will increase the agency’s expenses by \$2,500 to upgrade its current audio equipment.

Additionally, the expenditure impact of the bill could change depending upon the type of model policy adopted by the State Board of Education.

### **State Revenue**

This amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public and also by means of livestream transmission. The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district, charter school, or special school with escalating tiers based on frequency, duration, and severity that the State Board of Education determines reasonable and necessary. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by District from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, 1 percent of projected state funds to districts ranges from approximately \$43,500 to \$5,080,400 for FY 2021-22.

The revenue impact on the special school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district.

## **Local Expenditure**

As noted above, this amended bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public and through livestream transmission.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on local districts is undetermined. However, SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-seven regular school districts and the two charter districts regarding any potential increase in expenditures to ensure meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission. SCDE received responses from forty-five districts. Of the responding districts, thirty indicated that this portion of the bill would have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings. Two districts indicated that this portion of the bill would increase expenses but could not quantify the cost. The remaining thirteen responding districts indicated expenses would increase by a range of \$900 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff for this portion of the bill. Due to the varying responses from the responding districts and the type of policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education being unknown, the expenditure impact of this portion of the amended bill on local school districts is undetermined.

Further, the South Carolina School Boards Association indicates that the portion of the bill that prohibits school boards from preventing in-person participation at school board meetings will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since all school boards currently offer in-person meetings for the public. The only time meetings have not been offered in-person was during the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, meetings were available to the public through livestream or Zoom.

## **Local Revenue**

The revenue impact on local school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it will depend on how many districts do not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by District from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, 1 percent of projected state funds to districts ranges from approximately \$43,500 to \$5,080,400 for FY 2021-22.

## **Introduced on January 11, 2022**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission. If a governing body cannot provide such livestream transmission, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting and place the recording on its website no more than two business days after the meeting. The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district. The governing body of each public school, charter school, and special school must adopt a local policy within three months after adoption of the policy by the State

Board of Education. Local policies must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education model policy. Any revisions to the State Board of Education's model policy or local policies must be adopted and incorporated in the same manner as the original requirements. A governing body may only adopt its local policy or make changes at a regularly scheduled meeting. The provisions of the bill must be implemented before July 1, 2023.

**State Department of Education.** SCDE indicates that any expenses to adopt a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed within existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**State Agency Schools.** This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools. The South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicates that any expenses associated with livestreaming board meetings will be minimal and can be managed within existing appropriations. The School for the Deaf and Blind indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact since the agency currently has the capability to livestream meetings. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School also indicates that the bill will also have no expenditure impact since the agency has a plan in place to livestream meetings and to provide a video recording of meetings. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that the bill will have an expenditure impact on the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities or the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. However, the expenditure impact could change depending upon the type of model policy adopted by the State Board of Education. We will update this impact statement if the Governor's Schools' provide a response that alters this impact.

### **State Revenue**

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public by means of livestream transmission. The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or non-compliance. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district with escalating tiers based on frequent, duration, and severity that the State Board of Education determines reasonable and necessary.

The revenue impact on the special school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district.

### **Local Expenditure**

As noted above, this bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make necessary efforts to ensure its meetings are accessible to the public through livestream transmission.

SCDE surveyed the seventy-seven regular school districts and the two charter districts and received responses from forty-five districts. Of the responding districts, thirty indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings. Two districts indicate that the bill would increase expenses but could not quantify the cost. The remaining thirteen responding districts indicate expenses would increase by a range of \$900 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff. Due to the varying responses from the responding districts and the type of policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education being unknown, the expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts is undetermined.

### **Local Revenue**

The revenue impact on local school districts for violations or non-compliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it will depend on how many districts do not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director