



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3857 Introduced on February 1, 2023
Author: McGinnis
Subject: Doctoral/Professional Universities
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Tipton
Impact Date: February 9, 2023

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill codifies Proviso 11.20 of the FY 2022-23 Appropriations Act, which established a Doctoral/Professional University classification for state institutions of higher learning or other post-secondary schools. The bill and current proviso allow a state college or university under the Doctoral/Professional University classification to offer college-level baccalaureate, master's, and no more than five professional doctorate or doctor of philosophy degrees, and further specifies the primary mission of these programs.

This bill will have no fiscal impact on the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), as the agency indicates policy procedures related to the new classification were developed and implemented when the budget proviso was approved for the FY 2021-22 Appropriations Act. The agency further reports that the College of Charleston and Francis Marion University have received this classification under the budget proviso.

This bill will have no fiscal impact on state institutions of higher learning, as the bill is permissive in allowing state institutions to pursue this classification and does not establish any additional requirements.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 1, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill codifies Proviso 11.20 of the FY 2022-23 Appropriations Act, which established a Doctoral/Professional University classification for state institutions of higher learning or other post-secondary schools. State institutions of higher learning may be classified under current statute as a research institution, four-year college or university, two-year institution branch of the University of South Carolina, or under technical and comprehensive education. This bill allows a state college or university under the Doctoral/Professional University classification to offer college-level baccalaureate, master's, and no more than five professional doctorate or doctor of philosophy degrees, and further provides that the mission of these degrees or programs include continued education or employment, limited and specialized research, and public service to the state and local community.

According to CHE, the agency established policy procedures for implementing this classification upon the approval of Proviso 11.20 of the FY 2021-22 Appropriations Act. Currently, the agency has approved Francis Marion University and the College of Charleston for this classification under the budget proviso. CHE indicates that any further submissions by state colleges or universities under this bill would take place under normal business operations and will have no fiscal impact.

This bill may expand the curriculum and programs offered by state colleges or universities not classified as a research institution, upon classification as a Doctoral/Professional University. The bill is permissive in nature by allowing state institutions of higher learning to pursue this classification, and based on a survey of state colleges and universities, does not establish any further requirements of the institutions. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on state institutions of higher learning.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director