



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4060 Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 9, 2023
Author: G.M. Smith
Subject: Education and Workforce Readiness
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Bryant and Tipton
Impact Date: April 4, 2023 - Updated for Additional Agency Response

Fiscal Impact Summary

This amended bill provides guidelines to improve readiness for postsecondary education, new requirements regarding student aid applications, and makes changes to reporting requirements, among other changes.

The amended bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. Credits earned in these courses may also be used to meet high school graduation requirements. The amended bill specifies related implementation requirements for the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE), the State Board of Education, and the South Carolina Technical College system. Additionally, all high school seniors must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) before graduating from high school. The amended bill specifies exemptions and related requirements for the implementation of these provisions and makes the provisions applicable beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

The amended bill also modifies requirements relating to educator preparation program evaluations and the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card and transfers primary responsibility for conducting these evaluations and producing this report card from the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to SCDE. The amended bill further modifies requirements related to dual enrollment articulation agreements to provide a uniform system of dual enrollment college courses offered to high school students by public institutions of higher learning and participating independent institutions of higher learning beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Implementing agencies must collect and share postsecondary and high school data to facilitate the purposes of this section of the amended bill.

The amended bill provides that the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) must maintain and provide free online access to information regarding the economic value of college majors beginning July 1, 2025. The agency may expand its report to include associate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees.

Lastly, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (Tech Board) and the State Board of Education must provide a report to the General Assembly by July 1, 2024, providing

for the transfer of certain adult education programs from the State Board of Education to the Tech Board and specifying methods for maximizing the use of career and technology centers to improve and update career and technical education.

SCDE indicates that the amended bill will increase the agency's expenses by an amount up to \$109,000 in FY 2023-24 for 1.0 FTE to oversee implementation of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card, satisfy annual reporting and data collection requirements, analyze data, and publish dashboards. Of this amount, \$3,000 is for one-time equipment costs for the new FTE. Expenses will decrease to \$106,000 each year thereafter for annual salary and fringe benefits for the FTE. SCDE further indicates that the agency can manage the \$3,000 equipment costs within existing appropriations but will request a General Fund appropriation increase of \$106,000 for the 1.0 FTE. SCDE also reports that the bill will require completion of the Educator Preparation Program component of SC Educator to include a data system needed for initial and ongoing approval of educator preparation programs. However, the agency will manage this component using existing appropriations.

The amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools since the schools can manage the provisions of the bill within existing appropriations.

CHE reports that transferring primary responsibility for the development of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card from CHE to SCDE will result in no expenditure savings for CHE. However, CHE indicates that the agency will require 1.5 additional FTEs with annual salary and fringe benefits of \$140,000 beginning in FY 2023-24 for the administration of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs. Additionally, CHE indicates the need for a data portal to track and update dual enrollment and transfer changes at an estimated cost of \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2023-24. CHE reports that this will require additional General Fund appropriations and FTE authorization. Additionally, the amended bill may extend Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP) assistance to students in dual enrollment courses at public two-year regional campuses and technical colleges taking fewer than six credit hours. This change may have an expenditure impact on CHE, the cost of which is unknown at this time. We will update this impact statement when additional information on dual enrollment LTAP disbursements becomes available.

The Tech Board anticipates that the agency can manage the provisions of the bill within existing appropriations. However, the agency notes that the amended bill may extend LTAP assistance to students taking fewer than six credit hours, the impact of which is unknown at this time. We will update this impact statement when additional information on dual enrollment LTAP disbursements becomes available.

The amended bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs). Based on responses from Lander University, Francis Marion University, and Coastal Carolina University, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates that the implementation of new articulation agreements will be managed within the current budgets of the institutions and will have no expenditure impact.

The expenditure impact of the amended bill on DEW is pending, contingent upon a response.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts is undetermined and will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-three regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from eight districts. One of the responding districts indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact. The seven remaining responding districts anticipate the need to hire additional teachers to satisfy the remediation requirements at a potential range of \$80,000 to \$450,000 per year. However, the cost will vary by district depending on the number of students identified as not academically prepared and the number of additional teachers needed to teach the remedial courses. One responding district further indicates that the district will require 4.0 additional FTEs with annual salary and fringe benefits of \$305,000 beginning in FY 2023-24 for three additional guidance counselors to coordinate and manage the FAFSA program and one district level coordinator to serve as a liaison with the local technical college to facilitate the dual enrollment programs.

This impact statement has been updated to include responses from SCDE and the local school districts.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response on April 4, 2023

Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 9, 2023

State Expenditure

This amended bill provides guidelines to improve readiness for postsecondary education, new requirements regarding student aid applications, and makes changes to reporting requirements, among other changes.

S.C. Department of Education. This amended bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. SCDE, in collaboration with the South Carolina Technical College System, must develop courses and curriculum, as well policies and guidelines to identify students who will benefit from remediation courses. Based upon the policies and guidelines developed, SCDE must produce documents to help guidance counselors and administrators explain the benefits of the remediation courses to students, parents, and guardians. These documents must also be made available to the public.

The amended bill also requires all high school seniors to complete and submit a FAFSA before graduating from high school. The amended bill specifies exemptions and related requirements for the implementation of these provisions and makes these provisions applicable beginning with the 2023-24 school year. The Superintendent must establish an advisory committee consisting of school counselors, school administrators, and relevant stakeholders to assist the State Board of Education in adopting rules to implement these requirements and to develop recommendations.

The amended bill further changes certain requirements relating to educator preparation program evaluations and the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card and transfers primary

responsibility for conducting these evaluations and producing this report card from CHE to SCDE.

SCDE indicates that the amended bill will increase the agency's expenses by an amount up to \$109,000 in FY 2023-24 for 1.0 FTE to oversee implementation of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card, satisfy annual reporting and data collection requirements, analyze data, and publish dashboards. Of this amount, \$3,000 is for one-time equipment costs for the new FTE. Expenses will decrease to \$106,000 each year thereafter for annual salary and fringe benefits for the FTE. SCDE further indicates that the agency can manage the \$3,000 equipment costs within existing appropriations but will request a General Fund appropriation increase of \$106,000 for the 1.0 FTE. SCDE also reports that the bill will require completion of the Educator Preparation Program component of SC Educator to include a data system needed for initial and ongoing approval of educator preparation programs. However, the agency will manage this component using existing appropriations. *This section of the impact statement has been updated to include a response from SCDE.*

State Agency Schools. This amended bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. The amended bill also requires all high school seniors to complete and submit a FAFSA before graduating from high school unless a student is exempted from this requirement. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicates that any additional expenses can be managed within existing appropriations. The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities indicates that their counseling office currently handles all FAFSA related duties and does not expect a significant increase in the number of applications. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates that all their students receive a post-secondary education at a college or university. The School for the Deaf and Blind indicates that the agency can manage the provisions of the amended bill within existing appropriations. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School reports that there will be no expenditure impact on the agency since it is strictly a GED program. Therefore, the amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

Commission on Higher Education. This amended bill tasks CHE with establishing strategic timelines and milestones in their public agenda to increase the number of students who obtain degrees and credentials in the STEM disciplines, advancing training and careers in STEM fields, and expanding the STEM-capable workforce. CHE is also charged with convening the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs before September 1, 2023, to develop statewide secondary to postsecondary articulation agreements among all school districts, public IHLs, and participating independent IHLs for the purposes of providing dual enrollment courses. The advisory committee must make recommendations to CHE before July 1, 2024, regarding coursework acceptable for statewide dual enrollment courses. In conjunction with the Tech Board, CHE is required to implement the policy directives within all state IHLs, additionally adhering to the requirements specified by the amended bill. CHE is also required to annually report on the progress of the advisory committee to the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development.

CHE indicates that the agency will require 1.5 additional FTEs with annual salary and fringe benefits of \$140,000 beginning in FY 2023-24 for the administration of the advisory committee. Additionally, CHE indicates the need for a data portal to track and update dual enrollment and transfer changes at an estimated cost of \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2023-24. CHE reports that this will require additional General Fund appropriations and FTE authorization.

The amended bill also requires LTAP funds to be made available to dual enrollment students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve who are enrolled in public two-year regional campuses and technical colleges. Currently, LTAP funds are available to dual enrollment students taking six or more credit hours. The amended bill may extend LTAP assistance to students taking fewer than six credit hours, the impact of which is unknown at this time. We will update this impact statement when additional information on dual enrollment LTAP disbursements becomes available.

The amended bill further removes CHE from the development of the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card. CHE indicates that this change will result in no expenditure savings for the agency.

State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. This amended bill requires the Tech Board, in conjunction with CHE, to implement the articulation agreements, policy, and curriculum directives of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs within all state technical IHLs. The Tech Board, in conjunction with SCDE, must also report to the General Assembly before July 1, 2024, on a plan to increase the percentage of working-age adults with a postsecondary degree or credential, the specific requirements of which are stated in the amended bill. The Tech Board indicates that these requirements will be managed within existing appropriations and will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

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State Institutions of Higher Learning. This amended bill requires all state IHLs to implement the dual enrollment articulation agreements as developed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, along with other various workforce development initiatives involving higher education. Based on responses from Lander University, Francis Marion University, and Coastal Carolina University, RFA anticipates that the implementation of new articulation agreements will be managed within the current budgets of the institutions and will have no expenditure impact.

Department of Employment and Workforce. This amended bill requires DEW to maintain and provide access to information regarding economic value of college majors including information on bachelor's degrees earned to job availability. The information must be made public and communicated to SCDE and the local school districts. The agency may expand its report to include associate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. The expenditure impact of the amended bill on DEW is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This amended bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. Credits earned in these courses may also be used to meet high school graduation requirements. High school seniors are also required to complete and submit a FAFSA before graduating from high school. The amended bill specifies exemptions and related requirements for the implementation of these provisions and makes these provisions applicable beginning with the 2023-24 school year. As part of these requirements, each school district must report the number of students who complete and submit the application and the number of students who receive an exemption to SCDE. The amended bill also modifies requirements related to dual enrollment articulation agreements to provide a uniform system of dual enrollment college courses offered to high school students by IHLs beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts is undetermined and will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-three regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from eight districts. One of the responding districts indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact. The seven remaining responding districts anticipate the need to hire additional teachers to satisfy the remediation requirements at a potential range of \$80,000 to \$450,000 per year. However, the cost will vary by district depending on the number of students identified as not academically prepared and the number of additional teachers needed to teach the remedial courses. One responding district further indicates that the district will require 4.0 additional FTEs with annual salary and fringe benefits of \$305,000 beginning in FY 2023-24 for three additional guidance counselors to coordinate and manage the FAFSA program and one district level coordinator to serve as a liaison with the local technical college to facilitate the dual enrollment programs. *This section of the impact statement has been updated to include responses from the local school districts.*

Local Revenue

N/A

Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 9, 2023

State Expenditure

This amended bill provides guidelines to improve readiness for postsecondary education, new requirements regarding student aid applications, and makes changes to reporting requirements, among other changes.

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State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. This amended bill requires the Tech Board, in conjunction with CHE, to implement the articulation agreements, policy, and curriculum directives of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs within all state technical IHLs. The Tech Board, in conjunction with SCDE, must also report to the General Assembly before July 1, 2024, on a plan to increase the percentage of working-age adults with a postsecondary degree or credential, the specific requirements of which are stated in the amended bill. The Tech Board indicates that these requirements will be managed within existing appropriations and will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

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State Institutions of Higher Learning. This amended bill requires all state IHLs to implement the dual enrollment articulation agreements as developed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, along with other various workforce development initiatives involving higher education. Based on responses from Lander University, Francis Marion University, and Coastal Carolina University, RFA anticipates that the implementation of new articulation agreements will be managed within the current budgets of the institutions and will have no expenditure impact.

Department of Employment and Workforce. This amended bill requires DEW to maintain and provide access to information regarding economic value of college majors including information on bachelor's degrees earned to job availability. The information must be made public and communicated to SCDE and the local school districts. The agency may expand its report to include associate degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. The expenditure impact of the amended bill on DEW is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This amended bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. Credits earned in these courses may also be used to meet high school graduation requirements. High school seniors are also required to complete and submit a FAFSA before graduating from high school. The amended bill specifies exemptions and related requirements for the implementation of these provisions and makes these provisions applicable beginning with the 2023-24 school year. As part of these requirements, each school district must report the number of students who complete and submit the application and the number of students who receive an exemption to SCDE. The amended bill also modifies requirements related to dual enrollment articulation agreements to provide a uniform system of dual enrollment college courses offered to high school students by IHLs beginning in the 2024-25 school year. The expenditure impact of the amended bill on the local school districts is pending, contingent upon a response.

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on March 1, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill provides guidelines to improve readiness for postsecondary education, new requirements regarding student aid applications, and makes changes to reporting requirements, among other changes.

S.C. Department of Education. This bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. SCDE, in collaboration with the South Carolina Technical College System, must develop courses and curriculum, as well policies and guidelines to identify students who will benefit from remediation courses. Based upon the policies and guidelines developed, SCDE must produce documents to help guidance counselors and administrators explain the benefits of the remediation courses to students, parents, and guardians.

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The bill further amends requirements relating to educator preparation program evaluations and the South Carolina Educator Preparation Report Card and transfers primary responsibility for conducting these evaluations and producing this report card from CHE to SCDE.

The expenditure impact of this bill on SCDE is pending, contingent upon a response.

State Agency Schools. This bill requires all public high schools to provide remediation courses in literacy and mathematics to high school seniors seeking postsecondary studies but lacking the requisite academic preparation. The bill also requires all high school seniors to complete and submit a FAFSA before graduating from high school unless a student is exempted from this requirement. The overall expenditure impact of this bill on the state agency schools is pending, contingent upon a response from the School for the Deaf and Blind. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact since any additional costs can be managed within existing appropriations. The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact since their counseling office currently handles all FAFSA related duties and does not expect that this bill will result in a significant increase in the number of applications. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact since all their students have a post-secondary education at a college or university. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact since it is strictly a GED program.

Commission on Higher Education. This bill tasks CHE with convening the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs before September 1, 2023, to develop statewide secondary to postsecondary articulation agreements among all school districts and public IHLs for the purposes of providing dual enrollment courses. The advisory committee must make recommendations to CHE before July 1, 2024, regarding coursework acceptable for statewide dual enrollment courses. In conjunction with the Tech Board, CHE is required to implement the policy directives within all state IHLs, additionally adhering to the requirements specified by the bill. CHE is also required to annually report on the progress of the advisory committee to the

Coordinating Council for Workforce Development. CHE indicates that the agency will require 1.5 additional FTEs with annual salary and fringe benefits of \$140,000 beginning in FY 2023-24 for the administration of the advisory committee. Additionally, CHE indicates the need for a data portal to track and update dual enrollment and transfer changes at an estimated cost of \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2023-24. CHE reports that this will require additional General Fund appropriations and FTE authorization.

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State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. This bill requires the Tech Board, in conjunction with CHE, to implement the articulation agreements, policy, and curriculum directives of the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs within all state technical IHLs. The Tech Board, in conjunction with SCDE, must also report to the General Assembly before July 1, 2024, on a plan to increase the percentage of working-age adults with a postsecondary degree or credential, the specific requirements of which are stated in the bill. The Tech Board indicates that these requirements will be managed within existing appropriations and will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

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Department of Employment and Workforce. This bill requires DEW to maintain and provide access to information regarding economic value of college majors including information on bachelor's degrees earned to job availability. The information must be made public and communicated to SCDE and the local school districts. The expenditure impact of this bill on DEW is pending, contingent upon a response from the agency.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

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Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director