



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
**(803)734-3780 • RFA.SC.GOV/IMPACTS**

*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.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 4866	Introduced on January 17, 2024
<b>Author:</b>	Lawson	
<b>Subject:</b>	Smart Heart Act	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Education and Public Works	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Bryant	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	March 7, 2024	- Updated for Additional Agency Response

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires each public school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. The bill further requires every public and private high school to establish, review, and annually rehearse an athletics emergency action plan for responding to life-threatening or other serious injuries for students participating in sports or other athletic activities. Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, each public high school must also ensure the presence of an automated external defibrillator (AED) onsite and within certain proximity of school athletic venues. The bill provides testing, maintenance, and personnel training requirements as related to each district's AED program.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE). The department indicates it will manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. We will update this impact statement if the agency provides a different response.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-three regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from twenty-three districts. Nine of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. The remaining fourteen districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenses. One district anticipates additional expenses due to purchasing new equipment, paying instructors, and maintaining AEDs but reports that the cost is currently undetermined. Eight districts anticipate one-time expenses ranging from \$20,000 to \$186,650 to purchase and install or update AEDs and related equipment. Several districts indicate that expenses will increase by an amount ranging from \$1,650 to \$10,000 per year for training and maintenance costs. One district also anticipates the need to hire an additional staff member to coordinate the district's cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), AED, and cardiac emergency

response plan (CERP) programs at a cost of \$60,000 per year. Additionally, one district indicates the need to hire healthcare professionals to attend all practices and sporting events.

*This impact statement has been updated to include a response from SCDE.*

## **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Updated for Additional Agency Response on March 7, 2024**

**Introduced on January 17, 2024**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires each public school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. School officials must work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the community's emergency management system protocols. Appropriate school staff, including but not limited to licensed athletic coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers, must be trained in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and AED use. The bill further requires every public and private high school to establish, review, and annually rehearse an athletics emergency action plan for responding to life-threatening or other serious injuries for students participating in sports or other athletic activities. Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly, each public high school must also ensure the presence of an AED onsite and within certain proximity of school athletic venues. The bill provides testing, maintenance, and personnel training requirements related to each district's AED program.

**S.C. Department of Education.** This bill will have no expenditure impact on SCDE. The department indicates it will manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. *This section of the impact statement has been updated to include a response from SCDE.*

**State Agency Schools.** The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. We will update this impact statement if the agency provides a different response.

### **State Revenue**

N/A

### **Local Expenditure**

This bill requires each public school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds. The bill further requires every public and private high school to establish, review, and annually rehearse an athletics emergency action plan for responding to life-threatening or other

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The overall expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-three regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from twenty-three districts. Nine of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. The remaining fourteen districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenses. One district anticipates expenses due to purchasing new equipment, paying instructors, and maintaining AEDs but reports that the cost is currently undetermined. Eight districts anticipate one-time expenses ranging from \$20,000 to \$186,650 to purchase and install or update AEDs and related equipment. Several districts indicate that expenses will increase by an amount ranging from \$1,650 to \$10,000 per year for training and maintenance costs. One district also anticipates the need to hire an additional staff member to coordinate the district's cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR, AED, and CERP programs at a cost of \$60,000 per year. Additionally, one district indicates the need to hire healthcare professionals to attend all practices and sporting events.

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**S.C. Department of Education.** The expenditure impact of this bill on SCDE is pending, contingent upon a response.

**State Agency Schools.** The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray

Opportunity School indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. We will update this impact statement if the agency provides a different response.

### **State Revenue**

N/A

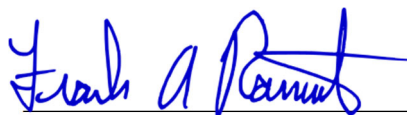
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### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director