



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. 3831	Introduced on January 29, 2025
Subject:	Smart Heart Act	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Wren	
Impact Date:	March 19, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires each public school or charter school authorizer to develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP) 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 or at a school-sponsored athletic practice or event. Also, the bill requires the State Board of Education to develop standards, practices, and procedures that must be adopted by districts and schools when developing a CERP and utilizing training in accordance with nationally recognized standards. Subject to funding by the General Assembly or the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE), appropriate school staff must be trained in first aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator (AED) that meets standards adopted by the State Board. Additionally, subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, each public school must ensure the presence of an AED onsite and within certain proximity of school athletic venues, must test and maintain each AED, and must ensure that all athletic coaches obtain and maintain certain training. Further, the bill allows SCDE to pursue public and private sources of funding to support the implementation of the bill and assist districts and charter schools in applying for federal funds for items associated with the bill.

SCDE indicates that the bill will increase the agency's recurring expenses by approximately \$141,000 beginning in FY 2025-26. Of this amount, \$120,000 is for 1.0 FTE to manage the responsibilities of the bill, and \$21,000 is for recurring operating expenses.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools. The bill specifies that the equipment and training are subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE. Further, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicate that any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing appropriations. Based on these responses, we anticipate that the Wil Ou Gray Opportunity School, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and the School for the Deaf and Blind can manage the costs to develop the CERP with existing resources.

SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and the three charter school districts. While the bill specifies that the equipment and training are subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, one district indicates that expenses to develop the CERP could increase

district expenses by \$1,000. The costs may be partially offset by donations from public or private entities and any federal funding that can be obtained for these expenses.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 29, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill requires each public school or charter school authorizer to develop a CERP 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 also requires each public school district or charter school with an athletic department or organized athletic program that competes in interscholastic activities to include in their CERP the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in a school-sponsored athletic practice or event. Also, the bill requires the State Board of Education to develop standards, practices, and procedures that must be adopted by districts and schools when developing a CERP and utilizing training in accordance with nationally recognized standards. Subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, appropriate school staff must be trained in first aid, CPR, and AED that meets standards adopted by the State Board. Additionally, subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, each public school must ensure the presence of an AED onsite and within certain proximity of school athletic venues, must test and maintain each AED, and must ensure that all athletic coaches obtain and maintain certain training. Further, the bill allows SCDE to pursue public and private sources of funding to support the implementation of the bill at the local level and assist districts and charter schools in applying for federal funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

S.C. Department of Education. SCDE indicates that the bill will increase the agency's recurring expenses by approximately \$141,000 beginning in FY 2025-26. Of this amount, \$120,000 is for 1.0 FTE to manage the responsibilities of the bill, and \$21,000 is for recurring operating expenses.

State Agency Schools. This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools. The bill specifies that the equipment and training are subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE. Further, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicate that any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing appropriations. Based on these responses, we anticipate that the Wil Ou Gray Opportunity School, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and the School for the Deaf and Blind can manage the costs to develop the CERP with existing resources.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill requires each public school or charter school authorizer to develop a CERP 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 or at a school-sponsored athletic practice or event. The State Board of Education must develop standards, practices, and procedures that must be adopted by districts and schools when developing a CERP and utilizing training in accordance with nationally recognized standards. Subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, appropriate school staff must be trained in first aid, CPR, and AED that meets standards adopted by the State Board. Additionally, subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, each public school must ensure the presence of an AED onsite and within certain proximity of school athletic venues, must test and maintain each AED, and must ensure that all athletic coaches obtain and maintain certain training. Further, the bill allows SCDE to pursue public and private sources of funding to support the implementation of the bill at the local level and assist districts and charter schools in applying for federal funds that are, or may be allocated, for items associated with the bill.

SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and the three charter school districts. While the bill specifies that the equipment and training are subject to funding by the General Assembly or SCDE, one district indicates that expenses to develop the CERP could increase district expenses by \$1,000.

Local Revenue

The bill allows SCDE to pursue public and private sources of funding to support the implementation of the bill at the local level and assist districts and charter schools in applying for federal funds that are, or may be allocated, for items associated with the bill. As such, local districts may generate additional revenue from these sources to offset a portion of the costs associated with implementing the bill.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director