



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. 3873	Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 26, 2026
Subject:	School Distribution of In-Home Identification Kits	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Bryant	
Impact Date:	April 28, 2026 - Updated for Additional Agency Response	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill, as amended, requires the Office of the Attorney General to make inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kits available to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for distribution throughout the district or school. The kits must be provided to the parent or legal guardian of any kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school student upon their request. The S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) must provide student counts by district to inform the number of kits needed per year.

The Office of the Attorney General estimates that the bill, as amended, will increase the agency's expenses by an amount up to \$165,000 per year. This amount assumes that kits are depleted each year, and under the current contract, the cost per kit is \$2.86. However, the Office of the Attorney General notes that after the current contract expires in December 2027, it will need to resolicit a new contract, which could change the cost of the kits and the overall fiscal impact beginning in 2028. The Office of the Attorney General will request additional General Fund appropriations to purchase the kits.

This bill, as amended, will have no expenditure impact on SCDE. The bill requires the department to provide student counts by district to determine the number of kits needed per year. Additionally, Section 59-3-35(C) provides that unless expressly appropriated by the General Assembly in order to meet the provisions of this act, the department shall not expend funds to procure kits. SCDE indicates that providing student counts and any costs to deliver the kits to school districts and charter schools if the department is required to assist the Attorney General's office can be managed with existing appropriations.

This bill, as amended, will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Arts and Humanities, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. The agencies indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated on an earlier version of the bill that distributing the kits will have no expenditure impact. Based upon these responses, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the School for the Deaf and the Blind. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates that the impact of this version of the bill on these schools will be similar to the previous responses.

SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts on an earlier version of the bill and received responses from sixteen districts. RFA anticipates that the impact of this version of the bill on local school districts will be similar to the previous responses. Twelve districts indicated that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Two districts indicated that any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing appropriations. Two districts estimated that they may incur administrative costs to distribute the kits. However, the overall cost will depend on how many parents or legal guardians of kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school students request a kit.

This fiscal impact statement has been updated to include a response from the Office of the Attorney General.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response on April 28, 2026

Amended by House Education and Public Works on March 26, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill, as amended, requires the Office of the Attorney General to make available to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kits for distribution throughout the district or school. The kits must be provided to the parent or legal guardian of any kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school student upon their request. SCDE must provide student counts by district to inform the number of kits needed per year.

Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General estimates that the bill, as amended, will increase the agency's expenses by an amount up to \$165,000 per year. This amount assumes that kits are depleted each year. Under the current contract, the cost per kit is \$2.86. Based upon these figures, the Office of the Attorney General can purchase approximately 57,700 kits. However, the Office of the Attorney General notes that after the current contract expires in December 2027, it will need to resolicit a new contract, which could change the cost of the kits and the overall fiscal impact beginning in 2028. The Office of the Attorney General will request additional General Fund appropriations to purchase the kits.

This section of the fiscal impact statement has been updated to include a response from the Office of the Attorney General.

S.C. Department of Education. This bill, as amended, will have no expenditure impact on SCDE. The bill requires the department to provide student counts by district to determine the number of kits needed per year. Additionally, Section 59-3-35(C) provides that unless expressly appropriated by the General Assembly in order to meet the provisions of this act, the department shall not expend funds to procure kits. SCDE indicates that providing student counts and any costs to deliver the kits to school districts and charter schools if the department is required to assist the Attorney General's office can be managed with existing appropriations.

State Agency Schools. This bill, as amended, will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Arts and Humanities, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. The agencies indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated on an earlier version of the bill that distributing the kits will have no expenditure impact. Based upon these responses, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the School for the Deaf and the Blind. RFA anticipates that the impact of this version of the bill on these schools will be similar to the previous responses.

State Revenue

N/A

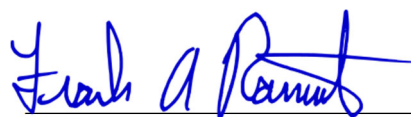
Local Expenditure

This bill, as amended, requires the Office of the Attorney General to make available to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kits for distribution throughout the district or school. The kits must be provided to the parent or legal guardian of any kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school student upon their request.

SCDE previously surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts on an earlier version of the bill and received responses from sixteen districts. RFA anticipates that the impact of this version of the bill on local school districts will be similar to the previous responses. Twelve districts indicated that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Two districts indicated that any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing appropriations. Two districts estimated that they may incur administrative costs to distribute the kits. However, the overall cost will depend on how many parents or legal guardians of kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school students request a kit.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director