

SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

<u>www.rfa.sc.gov</u> • (803)734-3793

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. 4257 Amended by House Education and Public Works on April 23,

2025

Subject: Excused Student Absences

Requestor: House Education and Public Works

RFA Analyst(s): Wren

Impact Date: April 28, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends the requirements for school district policies on excused absences for specific activities. The bill requires the district's policy to include students who participate in an interscholastic activity authorized by the school or school district, regardless of whether the activity is sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League or another entity, to the provision that allows students to be excused from school absences. Additionally, the bill requires the policy to include that students are to be academically in good standing in order to be excused to participate in a Career and Technical Student Organization experience or an interscholastic activity.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) since it does not alter the responsibilities of the department.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools since any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing staff and appropriations.

SCDE contacted the seventy-two regular public school districts and the three public charter school districts regarding the impact of the bill as introduced and received responses from sixteen districts. While districts may need to update internal policies and train staff, all responding districts indicate that the bill as introduced will have no impact on expenditures. Based on these responses, we anticipate that the changes in the bill as amended will not have an impact.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by House Education and Public Works on April 23, 2025 State Expenditure

This bill amends the requirements for school district policies on excused absences for specific activities. The bill requires the district's policy to include students who participate in an interscholastic activity authorized by the school or school district, regardless of whether the activity is sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League or another entity, to the provision that allows students to be excused from school absences. Additionally, the bill requires

the policy to include that students are to be academically in good standing in order to participate in a Career and Technical Student Organization experience or an interscholastic activity.

S.C. Department of Education. This bill will have no expenditure impact on SCDE since it does not alter the responsibilities of the department.

State Agency Schools. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing staff and appropriations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill amends the requirements for school district policies on excused absences for specific activities. The bill requires the district's policy to include students who participate in an interscholastic activity authorized by the school or school district, regardless of whether the activity is sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League or another entity, to the provision that allows students to be excused from school absences. Additionally, the bill requires the policy to include that students are to be academically in good standing in order to participate in a Career and Technical Student Organization experience or an interscholastic activity.

SCDE contacted the seventy-two regular public school districts and the three public charter school districts regarding the impact of the bill as introduced and received responses from sixteen districts. While districts may need to update internal policies and train staff, all responding districts indicate that the bill as introduced will have no impact on expenditures. Based on these responses, we anticipate that the changes in the bill as amended will not have an impact.

Local Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director