



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. 4737 Amended by the Higher Education Subcommittee of House
Education and Public Works on January 29, 2026

Subject: Training for New College and University Board Members

Requestor: House Education and Public Works

RFA Analyst(s): Tipton

Impact Date: February 9, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill as amended requires state institutions of higher learning to establish a board orientation program designed to address the role, duties, and responsibilities of the board of trustees for new board members, to be conducted at least once during their first year of membership. The amended bill specifies that the training must address the board's fiduciary responsibility to the institution and provides that the president of each institution must report annually to the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee the number of hours of training and development that each member of his board of trustees received during the preceding fiscal year.

The University of South Carolina (USC), Clemson University (Clemson), the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Coastal Carolina University (CCU), the College of Charleston (CofC), Lander University (Lander), and Citadel College (Citadel) all indicate that this bill as amended will have a minimal expenditure impact that can be managed within existing institutional budgets. Winthrop University (Winthrop) reports that additional funding in the amount of \$35,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$30,000 in each year thereafter would be needed to hire outside counsel and subject matter experts to implement the bill, and CofC indicates that an additional \$14,000 annually beginning in FY 2026-27 would be needed for trainer fees and travel expenses. Both Winthrop and CofC indicate additional General Fund appropriations would be needed to cover these expenses. CCU estimates \$10,000 in additional expenses would be incurred in FY 2026-27 for the development of the training program, which would be managed with existing resources.

The Technical College System (Tech System) on behalf of technical colleges in the state reports that technical college area commissioners currently have an orientation, and therefore, any additional expenditure impact would be minimal and managed with current resources.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the Higher Education Subcommittee of House Education and Public Works on January 29, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill as amended requires state institutions of higher learning to establish a board orientation program designed to address the role, duties, and responsibilities of the board of trustees for new board members, to be conducted at least once during their first year of membership. The amended bill enumerates several requirements of the orientation and training program, including that board members become familiar with their duties, the governing board committee structure, accounting methods and fiduciary requirements of the board, regulatory and statutory requirements of the board, and other strategic planning guidelines required of boards. The amended bill specifies that the training must address the board's fiduciary responsibility to the institution including, but not limited to, business operations, administration, budgeting, financing, financial reporting, and financial reserves.

The bill states that the orientation program and training must include at least eight hours of education and instruction for the new board members, which may be completed in one block or broken up over the course of a fiscal year. The president of each institution must report annually to the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee the number of hours of training and development that each member of his board of trustees received during the preceding fiscal year. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

USC, Clemson, MUSC, Lander, and the Citadel all report that this bill as amended would have a minimal expenditure impact that could be managed with existing institutional budgets. Winthrop indicates that the institution will need to hire outside counsel and subject matter experts to develop and conduct the training, as well as training materials and would incur additional costs of approximately \$35,000 in FY 2026-27, and \$30,000 each year thereafter. CofC reports that an additional \$14,000 annually beginning in FY 2026-27 would be needed for trainer and travel fees as result of the legislation. Both Winthrop and CofC indicate additional General Fund appropriations would be needed to cover these expenses. CCU estimates \$10,000 in additional expenses would be incurred in FY 2026-27 for the development of the training program, which would be managed with existing resources.

The Tech System on behalf of technical colleges in the state report that technical college area commissioners currently have an orientation, and therefore, any additional expenditure impact would be minimal and managed with current resources.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure & Revenue

N/A



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