



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. 4739 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: College Safety Training Programs for Students
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Tipton
Impact Date: January 28, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires colleges, universities, and technical colleges as well as independent institutions receiving Lottery-funded scholarships in the state to develop and implement a comprehensive campus safety training program for all new students. The bill enumerates several requirements of the format and material that must be incorporated in the training and also requires the institutions to compile a report on the training program, which must be made publicly available. The bill further requires institutions of higher learning to compile and report annual crime statistics. Both reports must be provided to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) and the Technical College System (Tech System) by specified dates for ensuring compliance with the training and reporting requirements. CHE and the Tech System must convey the reported information along with a determination of compliance with the bill to the respective chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Senate Education Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee by specified dates. If an institution is found not to be in compliance with the bill, the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, or both may recommend a reduction or suspension in institutional funding for the following fiscal year to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee and refer a finding of noncompliance to the Attorney General who may bring an enforcement action in the circuit court of appropriate jurisdiction. The bill takes effect upon approval by the Governor and first applies to students enrolling for the academic year beginning in the fall of 2027.

The training and reporting requirements of this bill may result in additional expenditures for state institutions of higher learning, based on responses from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Coastal Carolina University (CCU), the College of Charleston (CofC), Lander University (Lander), and the Citadel College (Citadel). MUSC and Lander indicate that the expenditure impact would be minimal based on current safety training and crime reporting requirements, and that any additional expenses would be managed by existing institutional budgets. CCU indicates that the bill will require additional expenses of approximately \$60,000 in FY 2026-27, and \$15,000 each year thereafter for the development of the training program, which will be covered by existing departmental resources. CofC reports that additional expenses of \$124,500 in FY 2026-27 and \$104,500 each year thereafter would be incurred for 1.0 additional FTE and the development of the training program. The Citadel reports that additional undetermined costs may be incurred for teaching modules and increased reporting.

This bill will increase General Fund expenditures by approximately \$12,900 for CHE beginning in FY 2026-27, representing salary and fringe for an additional 0.15 FTE needed for the review and reporting requirements, website publication, legislative composite reporting, compliance monitoring and determination, and noncompliance notifications required by this bill.

This bill will have a minimal impact on the Tech System, as the system reports that most technical colleges currently have a safety program in place. The Tech System indicates that some costs may be incurred as a result of the public safety director developing the training in accordance with the provisions of the bill. Any additional expenses would be managed with existing resources for state technical colleges.

The fiscal impact of this bill on the University of South Carolina (USC), Clemson University (Clemson), the Attorney General's Office, and the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is pending, contingent upon further review or a response from those entities.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill requires colleges, universities, and technical colleges as well as independent institutions receiving Lottery-funded scholarships in the state to develop and implement a comprehensive safety training program for all new students, delivered during initial orientation or within the first 30 days of arrival on campus, with exemptions for certain non-traditional and transient students. The bill requires the training program to be developed by each institution's public safety director in coordination with institutional leadership or contracted security personnel and could include orientation sessions, first-year experience courses, online modules, or similar delivery methods. The bill states that the president of the USC System, in coordination with the governing board, must work to ensure the implementation at the system campuses. The safety training would cover topics such as personal safety and situational awareness, emergency procedures, access to campus security services, prevention of and response to sexual assault and dating violence, behavioral intervention team resources, and bystander intervention and reporting practices. Institutions would be required by the bill to tailor the program to their campus needs while ensuring these criteria and requirements are met. Each college and university and independent institution of higher learning must report annually to CHE, and each technical college must report annually to the Tech System, a summary of the safety training program, methods of delivery, and any associated training materials.

The bill also requires institutions of higher learning to compile and report annual crime statistics to CHE or the Tech System as well as post the report on its website no later than January 31 of each year. These reports must include a detailed accounting of the number and types of crimes committed, whether the alleged offender and victim was a student, faculty, or non-affiliated person. The reports must include additional information as required by the bill but does not require the disclosure of personally identifiable information or information that would compromise an ongoing investigation. The bill further states that the requirements established would be in addition to, would not limit or modify, and must be published separately from the

Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and any subsequent federal regulations. CHE and the Tech System must also make these reports publicly available on their website and provide composite summaries to the respective chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Senate Education Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee no later than March 1 of each year. Institutions are required to make publicly available on their websites the campus safety plan or plans to the extent that such plans are not confidential, sensitive or protected from public disclosure. The plans must also be reviewed and updated at least once per academic year.

CHE and the Tech System must maintain a record of the institutions that submit the annual reports, and by December 1 of each year, must determine whether each institution has complied with the provisions of the bill for that calendar year. By January 1 of each year, CHE and the Tech System must notify the respective chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Senate Education Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee of any institution not in compliance with the bill, and the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, or both may recommend a reduction or suspension in institutional funding for the following fiscal year to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee and refer a finding of noncompliance to the Attorney General who may bring an enforcement action in the circuit court of appropriate jurisdiction. The bill takes effect upon approval by the Governor and first applies to students enrolling for the academic year beginning in the fall of 2027.

State Institutions of Higher Learning. Based on feedback from MUSC, CCU, CofC, Lander, and the Citadel, this bill may result in additional expenses for state institutions of higher learning. MUSC and Lander indicate that the impact would be minimal based on current crime reporting requirements, and that any additional expenses would be managed by existing institutional budgets. CCU indicates that some training materials will need to be developed internally, and several emergency preparedness training videos will be purchased from external vendors. As a result, CCU indicates additional expenses of approximately \$60,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$15,000 each year thereafter, which will be covered by existing departmental resources. CofC reports that 1.0 additional FTE will be needed to comply with the reporting and training requirements with an annual expense of \$101,500. CofC also anticipates a \$20,000 non-recurring expense and a \$3,000 recurring expense to develop and maintain digital training modules implemented within the institution's system, for total expenses of \$124,500 in FY 2026-27 and \$104,500 each year thereafter. CofC indicates that additional General Funds would be needed to cover these expenses. The Citadel reports that additional undetermined costs may be incurred for teaching modules and increased reporting.

The fiscal impact of this bill on USC and Clemson is pending, contingent upon further review by the institutions.

Commission on Higher Education. CHE indicates that the review and reporting requirements, website publication, legislative composite reporting, compliance monitoring and determination, and noncompliance notifications required by this bill will require an additional 185 to 255 staff hours per year. CHE reports that this equates to approximately 0.15 FTEs, with pro-rated salary

and fringe expenses of \$12,895. Therefore, this bill will increase General Fund expenditures by approximately \$12,900 beginning in FY 2026-27. The agency indicates that additional General Funds would be needed to cover the additional personnel costs.

Technical College System. The Tech System indicates that most of the reporting required by the bill falls under current requirements of the Clery Act. The Tech System reports that the implementation of the safety training program would have a minimal fiscal impact, since most technical colleges currently have a safety program in place. The system indicates that some costs may be incurred at state technical colleges as a result of the public safety director developing the training. However, those costs would be minimal and managed within existing resources for the technical colleges.

Attorney General's Office. The impact of this bill on the Attorney General's Office is pending, contingent upon a response from the office.

State Law Enforcement Division. The impact of this bill on SLED is pending, contingent upon a response from the office.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director