



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. 5205 Introduced on February 18, 2026
Subject: College Safety Training Programs for Students
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Tipton
Impact Date: February 18, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires state colleges, universities, and technical colleges 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 submit its annual security report required by the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) or the Technical College System (Tech System) as well as the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) by specified dates for ensuring compliance with the training and reporting requirements. CHE and the Tech System must convey composite summaries of the reported information to the respective chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee 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 with the annual summary analysis data first produced in November 2027.

This bill may result in additional expenditures for state institutions of higher learning, based on previous responses to similar legislation from 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), Winthrop University (Winthrop), Lander University (Lander), and the Tech System. USC, Clemson, MUSC, CofC, Lander, and the Tech System previously indicated that the expenditure impact on similar legislation 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 indicated that the bill would require additional expenses of approximately \$20,000 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. Winthrop reported that additional expenses of \$15,000 per year beginning in FY 2026-27 will be incurred for additional training modules to comply with the bill and that additional General Funds would be needed to cover these costs.

Based on a response from similar legislation, this bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures by approximately \$12,900 per year 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 is not expected to have an impact on the Office of Attorney General (OAG), as the office indicated on similar legislation that any enforcement actions against institutions of higher learning not in compliance with the bill will take place under normal office operations. This bill is also not expected to have an impact on SLED, as we anticipate that managing the reporting requirements will take place under normal operations for the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 18, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill requires colleges, universities, and technical colleges 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 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 submit their annual security report required by the Clery Act to CHE or the Tech System as well as SLED by October 31 of each year for ensuring compliance with the bill. CHE, the Tech System, and SLED must make the reports publicly available on its website no later than November 15 of each year and must provide a composite report to the respective chairs of the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee no later than December 1 of each year. The bill states that nothing may be construed to require disclosure of personally identifiable information or limit, modify, or otherwise affect the duties of institutions of higher learning under the Clery

Act or other applicable federal requirements. 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 with the annual summary analysis data first produced in November 2027.

State Institutions of Higher Learning. Based on feedback provided for similar legislation from USC, Clemson, MUSC, CCU, CofC, Winthrop, and Lander, this bill may result in additional expenses for state institutions of higher learning. USC, Clemson, MUSC, CofC, and Lander previously indicated 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 indicated 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 indicated additional expenses of approximately \$20,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$15,000 each year thereafter, which will be covered by existing departmental resources. Winthrop reported that additional expenses of \$15,000 per year beginning in FY 2026-27 will be incurred for additional training modules to comply with the bill and that additional General Funds would be needed to cover these costs.

Commission on Higher Education. CHE indicated on similar legislation that the review and reporting requirements, website publication, legislative composite reporting, compliance monitoring and determination, and noncompliance notifications would require an additional 185 to 255 staff hours per year. CHE reported that this equates to approximately 0.15 FTEs, with prorated salary and fringe expenses of \$12,895. Therefore, this bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures by approximately \$12,900 beginning in FY 2026-27. The agency indicated that additional General Funds would be needed to cover the additional personnel costs.

Technical College System. The Tech System reported on similar legislation 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 indicated 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.

Office of Attorney General. The OAG previously indicated on similar legislation that any enforcement actions against institutions of higher learning not in compliance with the bill would take place under normal office operations. Therefore, this bill is not expected to have an impact on the OAG.

State Law Enforcement Division. This bill is not expected to result in a fiscal impact for SLED, as we anticipate that managing the reporting requirements will be managed under normal agency operations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director