



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 Amended by Senate Education on April 16, 2026
Subject: College Safety Training Programs for Students
Requestor: Senate Education
RFA Analyst(s): Tipton
Impact Date: April 16, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill as amended requires state colleges, universities, and technical colleges to develop and implement a comprehensive campus safety training program for all new students beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. 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 their annual security report required by federal law 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. Each institution, CHE, the Tech System, and SLED must make the reports available on their websites and provide a summary to the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee by December first of each year.

This bill as amended also requires all public and private institutions of higher education in the state to make opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information available to enrolled students beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. The bill also provides that institutions of higher education may possess, store, and maintain naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal medication for the purposes of responding to a suspected overdose on institution owned property, and must provide training on the administration of overdose reversal medication to staff assigned to student residence halls.

The campus safety training and reporting provisions of this bill as amended 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. Further, USC, MUSC, CofC, Winthrop, and Lander, as well as the Tech System, previously indicated that providing opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information to enrolled students and providing staff training on opioid overdose reversal medication would have a minimal expenditure impact that could be managed within existing institutional resources.

Based on a response from similar legislation, this bill as amended 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 SLED, as we anticipate that managing the reporting requirements will take place under normal operations for the agency.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by Senate Education on April 16, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill as amended requires colleges, universities, and technical colleges to develop and implement a comprehensive safety training program for all new students beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, 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 as amended also requires institutions of higher learning, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, to submit their annual security report required by federal law to CHE or the Tech System as well as SLED by October thirty-first for ensuring compliance with the bill. Each institution, CHE, the Tech System, and SLED must make the reports available on their websites and provide a summary to the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee by December first 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 all applicable federal reporting

and disclosure 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 first of each year, must determine whether each institution has complied with the provisions of the bill for that calendar year. By January first of each year, CHE and the Tech System must notify the chairmen of the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee, of any institutions not in compliance with the bill.

This bill as amended also requires all public and private institutions of higher learning in the state to make opioid and fentanyl prevention education and awareness information available to enrolled students beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. The bill provides that this education must include information on recognizing an opioid overdose, appropriate response including contacting emergency services, and the legal protections available to people who seek medical assistance or render aid in good faith pursuant to Section 15-1-310 and Chapter 130 of Title 44, the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act. The bill requires the educational materials to be posted on a publicly accessible portion of each institution's website. The amended bill further authorizes institutions of higher learning to possess, store, and maintain naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal medication under a standing order, statewide protocol, or other lawful mechanism authorized under the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act for the purposes of responding to a suspected overdose on property owned or controlled by the institution. The bill requires the institution to provide training on the administration of naloxone or other opioid overdose reversal medication to staff assigned to work in student residence halls.

State Institutions of Higher Learning. Based on feedback provided on similar legislation from USC, Clemson, MUSC, CCU, CofC, Winthrop, and Lander, the campus safety training and reporting requirements may result in additional expenses for state institutions of higher learning. USC, Clemson, MUSC, CofC, and Lander previously indicated that the impact of the campus safety training and reporting requirements would be minimal based on current federal 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.

In addition, USC, MUSC, CofC, Winthrop, and Lander previously indicated that developing opioid and fentanyl education and awareness materials as well as providing staff training on opioid overdose reversal medication is not expected to have a significant impact on institution expenditures. MUSC reported that opioid and fentanyl awareness and educational information is

currently available to students. USC indicated that this provision of the bill as amended would have a minimal expenditure impact on the institution, with estimated costs associated with compliance of no more than \$7,500 in FY 2026-27 and no more than \$5,000 each year thereafter, which would be managed with current institutional resources. Similarly, Lander indicated that any additional costs to develop the opioid and fentanyl education and awareness materials and to train staff would be managed with current institutional resources. CofC and Winthrop previously anticipated no material expenditure impact as a result of this provision.

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 approximately \$12,900. Therefore, this bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures by \$12,900 beginning in FY 2026-27. The agency indicated that additional General Funds would be needed to cover the additional personnel costs.

State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. 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. The Tech System also previously indicated on similar legislation that developing opioid and fentanyl education and awareness materials as well as providing staff training on opioid overdose reversal medication would have a minimal expenditure impact. The system indicated that some technical colleges currently have staff trained in the administration of opioid overdose reversal medication. Any additional costs would be minimal and managed within existing resources for the technical colleges.

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

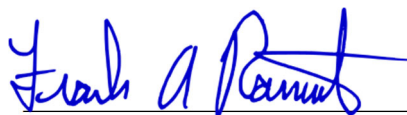
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



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