



# SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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**Bill Number:** H. 5309 Introduced on March 4, 2026  
**Subject:** Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Bryant  
**Impact Date:** April 9, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which provides that a member state shall grant a teacher holding an unencumbered license from a member state or an active military member or eligible military spouse holding an unencumbered license an equivalent license. For a teacher holding an unencumbered career and technical education license from a member state, the receiving state shall grant an equivalent license except where a career and technical education teacher does not hold a bachelor's degree, and the receiving state requires a bachelor's degree. The compact specifies that the decision to grant an equivalent license shall be made in the sole discretion of the receiving state's licensing authority and may include a determination that the applicant is not eligible for any of the receiving state's eligible licenses. The bill also specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission.

The S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) indicates that implementing the provisions of the bill will require one-time programming costs in the amount of \$15,000 to modify the educator certification and information system, SC Educator. However, the department anticipates that it will manage these non-recurring costs with existing appropriations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. The agencies indicate that they will manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) since the agency can manage any increase in criminal background searches with existing appropriations and with existing staff.

This bill specifies that a teacher who is eligible to receive a license under the compact must undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving state upon their application to receive a license. The bill may increase the number of criminal records searches that SLED is required to perform. SLED indicates that the total cost for a criminal records search is \$50.50, of which \$25 is retained by SLED. The vendor, Identogo, receives \$13.50, and the remainder of the fee, \$12.00, is remitted

to the FBI. Pursuant to Section 23-3-115(A), revenue generated by criminal records checks performed by SLED up to an amount of \$4,461,000 must be deposited in the General Fund. Any revenue over that amount is retained by SLED. The current three-year average in fees collected for background checks totals approximately \$17,571,006, of which \$4,461,000 is deposited to the General Fund, and the remainder is retained by SLED. The potential increase in fee revenue for SLED will depend on the number of additional background checks done as a result of this bill. Therefore, the impact to Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from eight districts. Six districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. One district reports that implementing the provisions of the bill may require additional record keeping but anticipates that it will manage any increase in costs with existing appropriations. The one remaining responding district indicates that any potential increase in costs cannot be quantified at this time.

## **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

### **Introduced on March 4, 2026**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which provides that a member state shall grant a teacher holding an unencumbered license from a member state or an active military member or eligible military spouse holding an unencumbered license an equivalent license. For a teacher holding an unencumbered career and technical education license from a member state, the receiving state shall grant an equivalent license except where a career and technical education teacher does not hold a bachelor's degree, and the receiving state requires a bachelor's degree. The compact specifies that the decision to grant an equivalent license shall be made in the sole discretion of the receiving state's licensing authority and may include a determination that the applicant is not eligible for any of the receiving state's eligible licenses. The bill also specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission. For reference, thirteen states have enacted legislation and are compact members (Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington), one state has enacted legislation with material language changes (Mississippi), and four states have filed legislation to become compact members (Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia, and Wyoming).<sup>1</sup>

**S.C. Department of Education.** SCDE indicates that implementing the provisions of the bill will require one-time programming costs in the amount of \$15,000 to modify the educator certification and information system, SC Educator. However, the department anticipates that it will manage these non-recurring costs with existing appropriations.

**State Agency Schools.** This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the

<sup>1</sup> *Compact Map*. (2026). Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. Accessed on April 9, 2026. Retrieved from <https://teachercompact.org/compact-map/>

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. The agencies indicate that they will manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

**State Law Enforcement Division.** This bill will have no expenditure impact on SLED since the agency can manage any increase in criminal background searches with existing appropriations and with existing staff.

### **State Revenue**

This bill specifies that a teacher who is eligible to receive a license under the compact must undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving state upon their application to receive a license. The bill may increase the number of criminal records searches that SLED is required to perform. SLED indicates that the total cost for a criminal records search is \$50.50, of which \$25 is retained by SLED. The vendor, Identogo, receives \$13.50, and the remainder of the fee, \$12.00, is remitted to the FBI. Pursuant to Section 23-3-115(A), revenue generated by criminal records checks performed by SLED up to an amount of \$4,461,000 must be deposited in the General Fund. Any revenue over that amount is retained by SLED. The current three-year average in fees collected for background checks totals approximately \$17,571,006, of which \$4,461,000 is deposited to the General Fund, and the remainder is retained by SLED. The potential increase in fee revenue for SLED will depend on the number of additional background checks done as a result of this bill. Therefore, the impact to Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

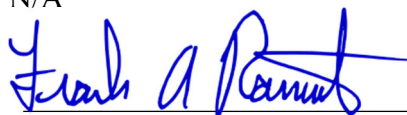
### **Local Expenditure**

This bill enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which provides that a member state shall grant a teacher holding an unencumbered license from a member state or an active military member or eligible military spouse holding an unencumbered license an equivalent license. For a teacher holding an unencumbered career and technical education license from a member state, the receiving state shall grant an equivalent license except where a career and technical education teacher does not hold a bachelor's degree, and the receiving state requires a bachelor's degree. The compact specifies that the decision to grant an equivalent license shall be made in the sole discretion of the receiving state's licensing authority and may include a determination that the applicant is not eligible for any of the receiving state's eligible licenses. The bill also specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission.

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### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director