



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: S. 0070 Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject: School Board Ethics
Requestor: Senate Education
RFA Analyst(s): Bryant
Impact Date: February 10, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model code of ethics for local school board members. The bill also requires a local school board to adopt a local code of ethics at a regularly scheduled meeting within three months after adoption of the model code of ethics by the State Board of Education. A local school board must submit a copy of its local code of ethics to the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) within thirty days of adoption. Additionally, the bill repeals requirements relating to an orientation for local school board members and provides that the State Board of Education must adopt a model training program for training local school board members. A local school board must adopt a local training program at a regularly scheduled meeting within three months after adoption of the model training program by the State Board of Education. The bill also specifies further requirements related to the local training program.

SCDE indicates that this bill will increase General Fund expenses by an amount up to \$1,150,000 in FY 2026-27. Of this amount, \$400,000 is recurring costs for facilities, administration, and operational costs, such as venues, speakers, staff, printing, and other associated events costs. The remaining \$750,000 is for one-time costs, including the development of training and curriculum materials. SCDE will request a General Funds appropriation increase to cover the costs.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on state agency schools. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicate that the agencies can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact since it is a state agency with its own board of trustees and does not report to local school boards. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the School for the Deaf and the Blind.

SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from twenty-three districts. Ten districts indicate that this bill will have no expenditure impact. Five districts indicate that any costs can be managed with existing appropriations. Three districts indicate that the expenditure impact of this bill is currently undetermined but note that potential costs include staff time for preparation to lead training and

costs to send local school board members to the required training. The five remaining districts indicate that this bill may increase costs by an amount ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000 for policy and training development and training costs, including registration and travel costs such as hotels, mileage, and per diem. Two of these districts also anticipate hiring a consultant to provide the required training.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model code of ethics for local school board members. The bill also requires a local school board to adopt a local code of ethics at a regularly scheduled meeting within three months after adoption of the model code of ethics by the State Board of Education. A local school board must submit a copy of its local code of ethics to SCDE within thirty days of adoption.

Additionally, the bill repeals requirements relating to an orientation for local school board members and provides that the State Board of Education must adopt a model training program for training local school board members. A local school board must adopt a local training program at a regularly scheduled meeting within three months after adoption of the model training program by the State Board of Education. Within one year of taking office, all persons elected, re-elected, appointed, or reappointed as members of a school district board of trustees, regardless of the date of their election, re-election, appointment, or reappointment, must successfully complete a training program in the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a board member. At the beginning of each calendar year, a local school board must certify compliance with the provisions of the bill by all board members and publish the certification in the minutes of the next regularly scheduled school board meeting.

S.C. Department of Education. SCDE indicates that this bill will increase General Fund expenses by an amount up to \$1,150,000 in FY 2026-27. Of this amount, \$400,000 is recurring costs for facilities, administration, and operational expenses, such as venues, speakers, staff, printing, and other associated events costs. The remaining \$750,000 is for one-time costs, including the development of training and curriculum materials. SCDE will request a General Funds appropriation increase to cover the costs.

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State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

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Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director