



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. 0160	Amended by the Senate on February 12, 2026
Subject:	Dietitian Licensure Compact	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	April 21, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows for the entry of the South Carolina Panel for Dietetics into the Dietitian Licensure Compact. The bill also specifies the purpose, functions, and operations of the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

Although the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) anticipates any additional responsibilities will be managed with existing staff, neither the agency nor the Panel for Dietetics can determine the total expenditure impact. While the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission has been formed and is meeting, the Dietitian Licensure Compact rules have not been established.¹ If the expenditure impact is significant, LLR may need to request an additional Other Funds authorization.

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.

The Panel for Dietetics falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the panel has an overall negative ending cash balance. Therefore, we anticipate this bill may result in a change to General Fund revenue.

The overall Other Funds revenue impact on LLR is undetermined since the panel is unable to determine how many applicants will seek compact licensure, the compact privilege fee the panel will set for compact licensure, or how many instances of adverse action will occur upon entry into the compact.

Based upon a three-year historical average, SLED collected an average of \$17,571,006 from background checks. Assuming a similar pattern in future years and since this amount is over the \$4,461,000 amount that is allocated to the General Fund pursuant to proviso, we anticipate that Other Funds of SLED will increase by an undetermined amount in the first year of the compact's

¹ *Dietitian Compact Implementation Timeline*. (2025.) Dietitian Licensure Compact. Accessed on April 21, 2026. Retrieved from <https://dietitianscompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Dietitian-Commission-Timeline.pdf>

existence as a result of the potential increase in background checks. There would be no increase to the General Fund for this portion of the bill.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the Senate on February 12, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill allows for the entry of the South Carolina Panel for Dietetics (panel) into the Dietitian Licensure Compact (compact). The compact requires member states to recognize licenses for dietitians issued by any other member state as well as allow for the practice of telehealth between member states. The bill specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission (commission), the collective governing instrumentality of the compact states. The commission must pay the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities and may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties. The bill also establishes the qualifications for dietitians under the compact, including national background checks with fingerprints by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The bill further provides for the compact states' rights and obligations, including those involving adverse action.

Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. This bill authorizes the panel, under the administration of LLR, to afford legal recognition to dietitians in a manner that is consistent with the terms of the compact. The panel may investigate and take adverse action on a dietitian licensed under the compact and must report an adverse action taken in accordance with the rules of the commission. Any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees related to investigation must be paid by the panel, but these expenses may be recovered from the affected party as a result of litigation. Compact states are required to fully implement FBI fingerprint criminal background check procedures in the application process. Additionally, the panel must participate in the commission's coordinated licensure data system by maintaining and submitting a uniform data set on all licensees in the state. Further, the panel must appoint one delegate to act on behalf of the state during annual meetings of the commission and any additional meetings.

The bill allows the commission to levy and collect an annual assessment from each compact state or impose fees on other parties, but this assessment has not been determined. The bill also specifies that the commission must pay for the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities. It is not clear at this time if the travel expenses for the state's delegate to attend commission meetings will be covered by the commission.

Although LLR anticipates any additional responsibilities will be managed with existing staff, neither the agency nor the Panel for Dietetics can determine the total expenditure impact. While the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission has been formed and is meeting, the Dietitian Licensure Compact rules have not been established. If the expenditure impact is significant, LLR may need to request an additional Other Funds authorization.

State Law Enforcement Division. SLED indicates that any expenses associated with conducting additional criminal background searches can be managed within existing appropriations and with existing staff. We anticipate that any revenue received from the criminal background search fee that is retained by SLED will be used to offset expenses. Therefore, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

State Revenue

This bill allows for the entry of the panel into the compact. The compact requires member states to recognize licenses for dietitians issued by any other member state as well as allow for the practice of telehealth between member states. The bill specifies the structure, function, powers, and duties of the commission, the collective governing instrumentality of the compact states. The commission must pay the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities and may levy and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties. The bill also establishes the qualifications for dietitians under the compact, including national background checks with fingerprints by the FBI. The bill further provides for the compact states' rights and obligations, including those involving adverse action.

This bill allows the panel to charge a fee for granting compact privilege. Since the panel is unable to determine how many applicants will seek compact privilege, the compact privilege fee the panel will set for compact licensure, or how many instances of adverse action will occur upon entry into the compact, LLR is unable to estimate the expected revenue from these sources. Therefore, the Other Funds revenue impact on the agency is undetermined.

The Panel for Dietetics falls under the Division of Professional and Occupation Licensing. Proviso 81.3 of the FY 2025-26 Appropriations Act requires LLR to remit annually to the General Fund an amount equal to 10 percent of expenditures unless the panel has an overall negative ending cash balance. Therefore, we anticipate this bill may result in a change to General Fund revenue.

This bill may increase the number of criminal records searches that SLED is required to perform since the panel does not currently require state or federal fingerprint criminal background checks. 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, 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.

LLR is unable to estimate the number of dietitians that may apply for compact privilege and would need to submit a criminal background check. However, based upon a three-year historical average, SLED collected an average of \$17,571,006 from background checks. Assuming a similar pattern in future years and since this amount is over the \$4,461,000 amount that is allocated to the General Fund, we anticipate that Other Funds of SLED will increase by an undetermined amount in the first year of the compact's existence as a result of the potential

increase in background checks. There would be no increase to the General Fund for this portion of the bill.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



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