



# 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.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	S. 0165	Introduced on January 14, 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	South Carolina Conservation Education Act	
<b>Requestor:</b>	Senate Fish, Game, and Forestry	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Daigle and Tipton	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	January 28, 2025	

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund for the purpose of connecting youth with nature through classroom and outdoor natural resource conservation education. The fund is eligible to receive appropriations from several sources, must be separate and distinct from the General Fund, and may be used by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) only to accomplish its specified purpose. Any balances in the fund must be retained and carried forward annually, and interest earned on the fund must be retained by the fund.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Treasurer's Office (STO) as the requirement of this bill will be managed within existing appropriations. This bill will have no expenditure impact on DNR as any increase in workload due to administering the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund can be managed with existing staff and resources.

The potential revenue that may be credited to the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund will depend on the amount of state appropriations, federal funds, local government funds, donations, gifts, or grants that may be awarded to the fund, and therefore, the amount that may be available for the educational programs is undetermined.

### Explanation of Fiscal Impact

#### Introduced on January 14, 2025

##### State Expenditure

This bill establishes the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund for the purpose of connecting youth with nature through classroom and outdoor natural resource conservation education. This bill specifies that the fund is eligible to receive appropriations from state general funds, federal funds, local government funds, donations, gifts and grants. This bill requires that revenues for the fund must be remitted to STO and credited to an account separate and distinct from the General Fund. Revenues in the fund are to be used by DNR only for the purpose of connecting youth with nature through classroom and outdoor natural resource conservation education programs.

This bill will have no impact on DNR as any increase in workload due to administering the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund to accomplish its specified purpose can be managed with existing staff and resources. DNR indicates that it currently operates natural

resource conservation education classes and programs with existing staff. Therefore, utilizing potential revenue of the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund for these education classes and programs can be accomplished within the normal scope of business.

Under this bill, revenues for the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund must be remitted to STO, credited to an account separate and distinct from the General Fund, and used for the purposes specified in the bill. STO indicates that these responsibilities can be managed within existing appropriations for the office. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on STO.

### **State Revenue**

This bill establishes the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund and specifies the fund may receive appropriations from the General Fund, Federal Funds, and other sources. Any balances in the fund must be retained and carried forward annually, and interest earned on the fund must be retained by the fund. The potential revenues that may be credited to the South Carolina Conservation Education Fund will depend on the amount of state appropriations, federal funds, local government funds, donations, gifts, or grants that may be awarded to the fund, and therefore, the amount that may be available to fund the educational programs is undetermined.

### **Local Expenditure**

N/A

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director