



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. 0416 Introduced on March 4, 2025
Subject: School Expulsion
Requestor: Senate Education
RFA Analyst(s): Bryant
Impact Date: March 25, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill prohibits expelled students from entering the school or school grounds, including attending any day or night school functions or riding a school bus. The bill also prohibits suspended students from entering the school or school grounds, except for a prearranged conference with an administrator, attending day or night school functions, or riding a school bus. These provisions do not preclude enrollment and attendance in any alternative education program, including adult education or virtual programming.

Additionally, the bill requires a student to be expelled for no less than one academic year for knowingly bringing a firearm to a school, establishes that the expulsion hearing must be conducted by the district board of trustees, and allows an expelled student to receive educational services in alternative settings, including virtual programming. Further, the bill clarifies that a board may transfer a pupil to another school within the school district in lieu of suspension or expulsion and requires notification to and input from the principal at the receiving school.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE). The department indicates that it can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools. 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 indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from fifteen districts. Eleven of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. One district indicates that expenses may increase due to the need to hire additional virtual academy or summer school teachers in order to provide the required alternative educational services for expelled students, but the cost is currently undetermined and will depend upon the number of expelled students receiving educational services in alternative settings and the number of teachers needed. Additionally, one district anticipates that expenses may increase due to legal fees but reports that the cost is currently undetermined. The remaining two districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenditures. One of these

districts reports that the bill may increase expenses by an amount up to \$8,600 per student if the district is no longer able to receive state funding for a student who is expelled and receives educational services in an alternative setting. The other district anticipates that this bill may increase expenses by approximately \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2025-26 for salary and fringe benefits for 1.0 FTE to manage the potential increase in alternative school attendance.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on March 4, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill prohibits expelled students from entering the school or school grounds, including attending any day or night school functions or riding a school bus. The bill also prohibits suspended students from entering the school or school grounds, except for a prearranged conference with an administrator, attending day or night school functions, or riding a school bus. These provisions do not preclude enrollment and attendance in any alternative education program, including adult education or virtual programming.

Additionally, the bill requires a student to be expelled for no less than one academic year for knowingly bringing a firearm to a school, establishes that the expulsion hearing must be conducted by the district board of trustees, and allows an expelled student to receive educational services in alternative settings, including virtual programming. Further, the bill clarifies that a board may transfer a pupil to another school within the school district in lieu of suspension or expulsion and requires notification to and input from the principal at the receiving school.

S.C. Department of Education. This bill will have no expenditure impact on SCDE. The department indicates that it can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

State Agency Schools. This bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools. 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 indicate that they can manage the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill prohibits expelled students from entering the school or school grounds, including attending any day or night school functions or riding a school bus. The bill also prohibits suspended students from entering the school or school grounds, except for a prearranged conference with an administrator, attending day or night school functions, or riding a school bus. These provisions do not preclude enrollment and attendance in any alternative education program, including adult education or virtual programming.

Additionally, the bill requires a student to be expelled for no less than one academic year for knowingly bringing a firearm to a school, establishes that the expulsion hearing must be conducted by the district board of trustees, and allows an expelled student to receive educational services in alternative settings, including virtual programming. Further, the bill clarifies that a board may transfer a pupil to another school within the school district in lieu of suspension or expulsion and requires notification to and input from the principal at the receiving school.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from fifteen districts. Eleven of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. One district indicates that expenses may increase due to the need to hire additional virtual academy or summer school teachers in order to provide the required alternative educational services for expelled students, but the cost is currently undetermined and will depend upon the number of expelled students receiving educational services in alternative settings and the number of teachers needed. Additionally, one district anticipates that expenses may increase due to legal fees but reports that the cost is currently undetermined. The remaining two districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenditures. One of these districts reports that the bill may increase expenses by an amount up to \$8,600 per student if the district is no longer able to receive state funding for a student who is expelled and receives educational services in an alternative setting. The other district anticipates that this bill may increase expenses by approximately \$50,000 per year beginning in FY 2025-26 for salary and fringe benefits for 1.0 FTE to manage the potential increase in alternative school attendance.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director