



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H.4702 Introduced on January 24, 2018
Author: S. Rivers
Subject: BP Act
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Powell
Impact Date: March 2, 2018

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	See Below	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds. This bill could increase expenditures of local school districts by an amount up to \$541,200, beginning in FY 2018-19, for expenses related to counseling students and parents. The impact will vary by school district, depending on the number of incidents in the district.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 24, 2018

State Expenditure

This bill adds to the list of components that local school districts must include in the policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. The bill requires the policy include a procedure to notify the responsible adult within one business day when school officials determine that a student has committed an act of harassment, bullying, or intimidation and a requirement that both the student and responsible adult meet with a school counselor or other appropriate personnel within three business days. If this requirement is not met, the student will be suspended from school until the student and parents agree to attend counseling sessions. If the student attempts to attend school in another district during his suspension, the district must have a procedure to notify that receiving district about the student's misconduct and failure to comply with related counseling requirements.

The Department of Education (Department) indicates that this bill affects local school districts and will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

The Department indicates that in FY 2015-16, districts reported a combined 2,706 bullying and cyberbullying incidents. The prevalence of these incidents varies statewide, with one district reporting 460 of these incidents. Based on five one-hour counseling sessions at the rate of \$40 per hour, the average estimated cost of counseling to the district would be \$200 per incident. At a rate of \$200 per incident the cost to school districts, for 2,706 incidents, would be \$541,200.

Several factors may mitigate or increase these expenses. The bill indicates that, if the student and parent attend the initial required meeting with a counselor, all five counseling sessions may not be required. In districts with very low incident rates, school counselors, or other trained school district staff may be able to provide this counseling as part of their normal duties rather than utilizing contracted counselors. Districts with very high incident rates may choose to hire an additional counselor or school psychologist rather than contracting for counseling services. The average yearly school psychologist salary is between \$37,754 and \$56,631. Additional expenses could be incurred for monitoring parental compliance and suspensions in districts with a high number of incidents, but these amounts cannot be quantified at this time.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director