



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 462 Signed by Governor on May 19, 2017
Author: Hembree
Subject: Uniform High School Diploma
Requestor: Senate
RFA Analyst(s): Shuford, Heineman, and Kokolis
Impact Date: June 26, 2017

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2017-18	FY 2021-22
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	\$0	\$30,100
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

The Department of Education, Department of Employment and Workforce, and Vocational Rehabilitation Department indicate their additional responsibilities will be managed with existing staff and existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds.

In school year 2021-2022, local school district expenditures will increase by \$30,100 from providing seals to a student’s uniform diploma to recognize endorsements earned through their course of study.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 19, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill requires the Department of Education to provide students with personalized pathways for earning the uniform diploma upon graduation from high school. Endorsements to the diploma may be earned based on the student’s course of study, which may be represented by seals added to the uniform diploma. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations on the procedures to approve courses for the personalized diploma pathways based on students’ postsecondary plans. Approved courses must be updated annually and be listed in a manual.

The State Board of Education, through the Department of Education, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the Department of Employment and Workforce, and other stakeholders, shall develop a uniform employability credential that is aligned to the program of

study for students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program team determines that a diploma pathway will not provide a free appropriate public education. This bill takes effect for students entering ninth grade beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. The Department of Education shall monitor the number of diplomas and employability credentials and report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly biannually beginning February 15, 2020.

Department of Education. The bill requires the department to determine personalized pathways for the uniform diploma and new course study endorsements, align coursework with a student's personalized diploma pathway, and develop a uniform employability credential in collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders. The department indicates that meeting expenses for travel and food reimbursements will total approximately \$54,200 in FY 2017-18. However, these expenses will be managed within the department's current budget appropriations. Therefore, the bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the department.

Department of Employment and Workforce. The department indicates their participation in developing criteria for a uniform state-recognized employability credential will be managed with existing staff and existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the department.

Vocational Rehabilitation Department. The department indicates their participation in developing criteria for a uniform state-recognized employability credential will be managed with existing staff and existing appropriations. Therefore, the bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Other Funds, or Federal Funds of the department.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill allows local school districts to provide seals for a student's uniform diploma to recognize endorsements earned through their course of study. Based on the 43,000 diplomas issued in school year 2016-2017 and a cost of \$0.70 per seal, we anticipate that local school district expenditures will increase by \$30,100 in school year 2021-2022. This is when students in the ninth grade beginning with the 2018-2019 school year will graduate.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director