



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3427 Amended by the House Education and Public Works K-12 Subcommittee on January 18, 2017

Author: Lucas

Subject: S.C. Computer Science Education Initiative

Requestor: House Education and Public Works

RFA Analyst(s): Shuford, Kokolis, and Walling

Impact Date: February 21, 2017 - Updated for revised agency response

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure			
General Fund	\$0	\$92,154	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	1.00	0.00
State Revenue			
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$0	\$0	Undetermined
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill would increase General Fund expenditures by \$92,154 in FY 2018-19. Local school district expenditures for additional computer science instruction in grades nine through twelve at the 291 high schools statewide would increase local school district expenditures by an undetermined amount in FY 2019-20, since the eventual local expenditure impact will depend on how the school districts choose to implement the additional computer science instructional requirements of the bill. This updated fiscal impact statement is based on a revised response from the Department of Education.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for revised agency response on February 21, 2017

Amended by the House Education and Public Works K-12 Subcommittee on January 18, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill as amended requires the Department of Education (department) to adopt grade appropriate standards for computer science, computational thinking, and computer coding for grades nine through twelve by August 1, 2018. By the 2019-20 school year, each public and public charter high school must offer at least one computer science course.

In school year 2018-19, the department must employ one full-time employee to coordinate and lead the computer science education initiative, support teachers in designing instruction and

assignments, design career pathways that connect students to postsecondary programs, offer teacher endorsements and professional development to new computer science teachers in a two to four week summer institute, and other duties to implement this initiative.

Department of Education. The department indicates that additional expenditures of \$92,154 in FY 2018-19 are necessary to implement the computer science education initiative. These additional expenditures include the salary and employer fringe for one FTE to coordinate and lead the computer science education initiative.

Commission on Higher Education. The bill tasks the commission with determining what, if any, financial incentives are needed by institutions of higher learning to design programs to prepare and credential computer science teachers. These activities are conducted in the normal course of the commission's activities. Therefore, this bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds of the commission.

Office of the Governor. The bill requires the Office of the Governor to establish criteria and a process for designating a STEM region or community. The Office of the Governor indicates that these responsibilities will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds of the office.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

In FY 2019-20, each public and public charter high school must offer at least one computer science course. This course may be offered in a traditional classroom setting, a dual enrollment course, a blended learning environment, or an on-line or other technology based format tailored to meet the needs of each participating student. These requirements may require the school districts to hire additional computer science teachers, utilize Virtual SC services, or contract with adjunct instructors for each of the 291 high schools.

The options on how to provide the required computer science instruction vary depending on school district implementation strategies. To hire a teacher for a traditional classroom setting, the department estimates additional school district expenditures of \$66,000 per teacher for salary and employer fringe. School district purchases of a virtual learning program through VirtualSC would increase expenditures by \$7,000 per school year. These additional instructional options would increase local school district expenditures by an undetermined amount in FY 2019-20. The eventual local expenditure impact will depend on how the school districts choose to implement the additional computer science instructional requirements of the bill.

The local expenditure impact is updated based on a revised response from the Department of Education.

Local Revenue

N/A

Amended by the House Education and Public Works K-12 Subcommittee on January 18, 2017

State Expenditure

This bill as amended requires the Department of Education (department) to adopt grade appropriate standards for computer science, computational thinking, and computer coding for grades nine through twelve by August 1, 2018. By the 2019-20 school year, each public and public charter high school must offer at least one computer science course.

In school year 2018-19, the department must employ one full-time employee to coordinate and lead the computer science education initiative, support teachers in designing instruction and assignments, design career pathways that connect students to postsecondary programs, offer teacher endorsements and professional development to new computer science teachers in a two to four week summer institute, and other duties to implement this initiative.

Department of Education. The department indicates that additional expenditures of \$1,259,400 in FY 2017-18 and an additional expenditure of \$100,000 in FY 2018-19 are necessary to implement the computer science education initiative. These additional expenditures for FY 2017-18 include the following:

- \$150,000 to develop grade appropriate standards for high school students;
- \$300,000 to develop guidelines outlining education and degree requirements for computer science teachers;
- \$300,000 to support K-12 academic and computer science teachers in developing project-based instruction and assignments;
- \$150,000 to design career pathways that connect students to postsecondary programs and career fields;
- 100,000 to offer two to four-week full-day summer institute to new computer science teachers;
- \$150,000 to assist districts in developing business partnerships to provide afterschool and extracurricular activities in computer science; and
- \$109,400 for one FTE to coordinate and lead the computer science education initiative.

Additional expenditures in FY 2018-19 include \$100,000 for the continuation of the two to four-week full-day summer institute for new computer science teachers.

Commission on Higher Education. The bill tasks the commission with determining what, if any, financial incentives are needed by institutions of higher learning to design programs to prepare and credential computer science teachers. These activities are conducted in the normal course of the commission's activities. Therefore, this bill will not have an expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds of the commission.

Office of the Governor. The bill requires the Office of the Governor to establish criteria and a process for designating a STEM region or community. The Office of the Governor indicates that these responsibilities will have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds of the office.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

In FY 2019-20, each public and public charter high school must offer at least one computer science course. This may require the school districts to hire an additional computer science teacher for each of the 291 high schools. The department estimates that the average salary for these teachers would require additional expenditures of \$44,880 for salary and \$21,120 for employer fringe. These additional teachers would increase local school district expenditures by \$19,206,000 in FY 2019-20.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director