



**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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**Bill Number:** H. 3591    Introduced on January 12, 2021  
**Author:** Allison  
**Subject:** Educator Preparation  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Wren, Jolliff, and Martin  
**Impact Date:** April 6, 2021

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill directs the State Board of Education, with assistance from the Department of Education (SDE), Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA), to develop and annually publish an online report card known as the “South Carolina Teacher Preparation Report Card.” The bill also requires SDE to provide each college of education and state-approved educator preparation program with information regarding its graduates before December 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

This bill will increase General Fund expenses of SDE by a range of \$636,231 to \$810,381 in FY 2021-22. Of this amount, \$135,806 is for recurring funds for 2 FTEs. The remaining range of \$500,425 to \$674,575 is for non-recurring funds. Of the non-recurring amount, \$7,000 is for equipment for the 2 new FTEs. The remainder of the non-recurring funds, which is a range of \$493,425 to \$667,575, is for the procurement of an educator preparation data and reporting system. The cost of the system depends upon the number of hours required for development. Further, recurring General Fund expenses of the agency are expected to increase by an additional \$66,000 in FY 2022-23 for maintenance, server and technical upgrades, and for programming updates to the enterprise data system.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools or the local school districts since we expect that the state agency schools and districts will be able to comply with the reporting requirements within the normal course of business.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on RFA since the requirements of the bill can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on CHE since the commission anticipates that it can accomplish the requirements of the bill within the normal course of business.

The expenditure impact on the institutions of higher education is undetermined since it is unclear as to how a unique identification system will be established.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (SBTCE) since the agency does not offer educator preparation programs through its technical colleges.

## **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

### **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill directs the State Board of Education, with assistance from SDE, CHE, and RFA, to develop and annually publish an online report card known as the “South Carolina Teacher Preparation Report Card.” The report card must evaluate the ability of educator preparation programs, including alternative programs, to train new teachers for success in classrooms. The report card must include data on an expansive list of measures. SDE, each educator preparation program, and each school district must report any data as requested by the State Board of Education to complete the evaluation.

The bill also requires SDE to provide each college of education and state-approved educator preparation program with information regarding its graduates before December 1<sup>st</sup> annually. The information must include criteria as outlined in the bill. Also, a college of education or educator preparation program must develop and use a unique system for identifying individual educator graduates. Information provided to a college of education or educator preparation program pursuant to this section is not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

**State Department of Education.** SDE indicates that this bill will increase General Fund expenses of the agency by a range of \$636,231 to \$810,381 in FY 2021-22. Of this amount, \$135,806 is for recurring funds for 2 FTEs (1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Education Associate II), including fringe. The remaining range of \$500,425 to \$674,575 is for non-recurring funds. Of the non-recurring amount, \$7,000 is for equipment for the 2 new FTEs. The remainder of the non-recurring funds, which is a range of \$493,425 to \$667,575, is for the procurement of an educator preparation data and reporting system to encompass provider accreditation, for program review and approval, for data collection and reporting, and for the publication of the required report cards. The cost of the system depends upon the number of hours required for development. Further, recurring General Fund expenses of the agency are expected to increase by an additional \$66,000 in FY 2022-23 for maintenance, server and technical upgrades, and for programming updates to the enterprise data system.

**State Agency Schools.** We anticipate that the state agency schools will be able to comply with the reporting requirements within the normal course of business. Therefore, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

**Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.** RFA anticipates that the provisions of this section can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the agency.

**Commission on Higher Education.** CHE indicates that public institutions are mandated to report data to the commission, while private institutions self-report data. CHE will be responsible for validating the data from private institutions. Further, CHE anticipates being able to accomplish the requirements of the bill within the normal course of business as long as the data and reporting from private institutions is not voluminous. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on CHE.

**Institutions of Higher Education.** The institutions of higher education indicate that they are unclear as to how a unique identification system will be established pursuant to the provisions of the bill. The establishment of this unique identifier would require the collaboration of all institutions of higher education, as well as other agencies. Due to this uncertainty, the institutions are unable to determine the cost at this time. Therefore, the expenditure impact on the institutions of higher education is undetermined. We will update this impact statement if additional information becomes available.

**State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.** SBTCE does not offer educator preparation programs through its technical colleges. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on SBTCE.

**State Revenue**

N/A

**Local Expenditure**

The bill requires each school district to report any data as requested by the State Board of Education to complete the evaluation pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

We anticipate that the local school districts will be able to comply with the reporting requirements within the normal course of business. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on local school districts.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director