



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0969 Amended by House Education and Public Works on May 3, 2022
Author: Garrett
Subject: Board of Education
Requestor: House of Representatives
RFA Analyst(s): Wren
Impact Date: May 4, 2022

Fiscal Impact Summary

The amended bill requires each public school, including the state agency schools and charter schools, to display the official motto of the United States, the official mottos of South Carolina, and accurate representations of the United States flag and South Carolina state flag no later than January 1, 2023. The State Board of Education must promulgate regulations specifying how the depictions must be displayed. The amended bill also requires the principal of each elementary, middle, and high school to allow representatives of the youth patriotic societies the opportunity to speak with students for at least ten minutes during the week of Patriot Day, the week of Constitution Day, or during Patriotism Week events. A school is not required to allocate more than thirty minutes for use by youth patriotic societies annually. The State Superintendent of Education must require districts to observe Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week and to develop appropriate curricula that focuses on the purpose of these events.

This amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Department of Education (SCDE) since the additional responsibilities can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

This amended bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools since it is anticipated that the agencies can accomplish the requirements of the bill within existing appropriations.

This amended bill will have no expenditure impact on the local school districts since the districts can manage the provisions of the bill within the existing budgets of the districts.

The potential increase in Other Funds revenue is undetermined as the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) is unable to determine the amount of revenue that may be donated for the display of the specified mottos and flag representations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by House Education and Public Works on May 3, 2022

State Expenditure

The amended bill requires each public school, including the state agency schools and charter schools, to display the following no later than January 1, 2023:

- The official motto of the United States, ‘In God We Trust,’;
- The official mottos of South Carolina, ‘Dum Spiro Spero’ and ‘Animis Opibusque Parati,’ and their respective translations;
- An accurate representation of the United States flag; and
- An accurate representation of the South Carolina state flag.

The State Board of Education must promulgate regulations specifying how the depictions must be displayed. Additionally, the head of each public school must ensure that the aforementioned mottos and flag representations are displayed in the manner adopted the State Board of Education and as directed by the State Superintendent of Education. The amended bill also allows for the solicitation or acceptance of donated funds for this purpose.

The amended bill also requires the principal of each elementary, middle, and high school to allow representatives of approved youth patriotic societies the opportunity to speak with students for at least ten minutes during the week of Patriot Day, the week of Constitution Day, or during Patriotism Week events. A school may observe Constitution Day and Patriot Day during a single event and is not required to allocate more than thirty minutes for use by youth patriotic societies annually, allocated equally among the requesting youth patriotic societies. Also, a school is not required to allow a youth patriotic society to speak more than once each school year. After receiving notice of a society’s intent to address students, the principal of the school must provide verbal or written approval indicating the date and time for the society to address the students. Additionally, the bill requires the State Superintendent of Education to require, instead of encourage, school districts to observe Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week and to develop appropriate curricula that focuses on the purpose of these events.

If no patriotic youth societies request to address students during any of the aforementioned weeks, a school is considered to have fulfilled the requirements of this bill if it incorporates curricula on Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week into lesson plans for all students during the applicable week.

State Department of Education. SCDE indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency. The requirement to make regulations for the display of the mottos and flag representations can be accomplished within existing appropriations. Additionally, enforcement of the Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week activities can be accomplished within the normal course of agency business.

State Agency Schools. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics previously indicated no expenditure impact to display the aforementioned items since they could adhere to the provisions

of the bill within existing appropriations. Also, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities previously indicated that similar legislation regarding display of the aforementioned items would have no expenditure impact since the agencies could manage the requirements of the legislation within existing appropriations.

Additionally, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicate that the amended bill will have no expenditure impact since the agencies can adhere to the provisions of the bill regarding Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week within existing appropriations. Based upon these responses, we do not expect the amended bill will have an expenditure impact on the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe or the School for the Deaf and Blind.

State Revenue

As mentioned above, this amended bill allows for the solicitation or acceptance of donated funds for the display of the specified mottos and flag representations. RFA is unable to estimate the amount of revenue that may be donated for this cause. Therefore, the potential increase in Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

As previously noted, this amended bill requires each public school, including the state agency schools and charter schools, to ensure that the United States and South Carolina mottos and flag representations are displayed in the manner as directed by the State Board of Education. SCDE previously indicated that this portion of the amended bill would be no expenditure impact on local school districts since the districts could manage the display of the mottos and flags within their existing budgets.

Additionally, as previously noted, the amended bill requires the principal of each elementary, middle, and high school to allow representatives of the youth patriotic societies the opportunity to speak with students for at least ten minutes during the week of Patriot Day, the week of Constitution Day, or during Patriotism Week events. A school may observe Constitution Day and Patriot Day during a single event and is not required to allocate more than thirty minutes for use by youth patriotic societies annually. Districts are also required, instead of encouraged, to observe Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week. SCDE previously indicated that the public school districts would be able to manage the requirements for Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Patriotism Week within their existing budgets. Therefore, this section of the amended bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on local school districts.

Local Revenue

N/A

Amended by Senate Education on March 30, 2022

State Expenditure

This amended bill requires the State Superintendent of Education to make provisions to implement rules and regulations developed by the State Board of Education for the display of the following:

- The official motto of the United States, ‘In God We Trust,’;
- The official mottos of South Carolina, ‘Dum Spiro Spero’ and ‘Animis Opibusque Parati,’ and the respective translations;
- An accurate representation of the United States flag; and
- An accurate representation of the South Carolina state flag.

The head of each public school must ensure that the aforementioned mottos and flag representations are displayed in the manner adopted the State Board of Education and as directed by the State Superintendent of Education. The bill further allows for the solicitation or acceptance of donated funds for this purpose.

State Department of Education. SCDE indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact since the requirement to make rules and regulations for the display of the mottos and flag representations can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

State Agency Schools. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics indicate that the amended bill will have no expenditure impact since the agencies can adhere to the provisions of the bill within existing appropriations. The Governor’s School for Agriculture at John de la Howe and the Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities previously indicated that similar legislation would have no expenditure impact since the agencies could manage the requirements of the legislation within existing appropriations. We will update this impact statement if these two agencies provide a different response on this bill as amended.

State Revenue

As mentioned above, this bill allows for the solicitation or acceptance of donated funds for the display of the specified mottos and flag representations. RFA is unable to estimate the amount of revenue that may be donated for this cause. Therefore, the potential increase in Other Funds revenue is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

As previously noted, this bill requires each public school to ensure that the United States and South Carolina mottos and flag representations are displayed in the manner as directed by the State Superintendent of Education.

SCDE indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since the districts can manage the provisions of the bill within the existing budgets of the districts.

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on January 12, 2022

State Expenditure

This bill requires the State Board of Education to make rules and regulations for the display of ‘In God We Trust,’ the official motto of the United States, and ‘Dum Spiro Spero’ and ‘Animis Opibusque Parati,’ the official mottos of South Carolina. Public schools must display the mottos in the manner adopted by the State Board of Education.

State Department of Education. SCDE indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact since the requirement to make rules and regulations for the display of the mottos can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

State Agency Schools. The Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics, the Governor’s School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and the School for the Deaf and Blind indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since any expenses for printing and display can be managed within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

As previously noted, this bill requires the State Board of Education to make rules and regulations for the display of the official mottos of the United States and South Carolina in public schools.

SCDE indicates that the bill will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since any expenses for printing the mottos can be managed within the existing budgets of the districts.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director