



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.

Bill Number: S. 0077 Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject: Streaming of School Board Meetings
Requestor: Senate Education
RFA Analyst(s): Wren
Impact Date: January 17, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make reasonable efforts to ensure the entirety of its regularly scheduled or special called meetings of its full governing body are open and accessible to the public and also available by means of live electronic access, or livestream access, except during a lawful executive session. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model livestream meeting policy for public school governing bodies to implement. Further, the bill sets a penalty for policy violations and noncompliance that is not to exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) as the department indicates that any expenses associated with developing a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed with existing appropriations.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools since the schools either currently livestream board meetings or can manage any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill with existing appropriations.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts will vary. SCDE previously surveyed the regular school districts and the charter districts regarding similar legislation and received responses from forty-one districts. Of the responding districts, twenty-three indicated that the bill would have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings. One district indicated that the bill may require overtime from existing staff but could not quantify the cost. The remaining seventeen responding districts indicated that expenses would increase by a range of \$3,000 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff. Additionally, the requirements of the model livestream policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education may affect these costs if they are more expensive.

Penalties for violations or noncompliance with requirements of the bill may not exceed 1 percent of state funds. The revenue impact on local school districts and special school districts for violations of the livestream meeting policy will depend on how many districts do not comply with the provisions of the bill. The amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District from the Revenue and Fiscal

Affairs Office (RFA), 1 percent of projected state funds to the regular and charter districts ranges from approximately \$70,800 to \$6,380,200 for FY 2024-25.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make reasonable efforts to ensure the entirety of its regularly scheduled or special called meetings of its full governing body are open and accessible to the public and also available by means of live video and audio electronic access, or livestream access. Lawful executive sessions are excluded from this provision. The bill also specifies that if a governing body cannot provide or restore livestream transmission during the meeting, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting available on its website within two business days after the meeting.

The State Board of Education must adopt a model livestream meeting policy to comply with the provisions of the bill. The policy must include certain criteria, including penalties for policy violations or noncompliance. The governing body of each public school, charter school, and special school must adopt a local policy within three months after adoption of the policy by the State Board of Education. Within thirty days after adoption of a local policy or revision to the policy, a governing body must submit a copy of the policy or revision to the State Superintendent of Education for approval by the State Board of Education. The provisions of this bill must be implemented by July 1, 2025.

S.C. Department of Education. SCDE indicates that any expenses to adopt a model livestream meeting policy for school districts can be managed with existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have an expenditure impact on SCDE.

State Agency Schools. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and the School for the Deaf and Blind anticipate that any expenses to implement the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing appropriations. The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates that it currently livestreams board meetings. Therefore, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on state agency schools.

State Revenue

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make reasonable efforts to ensure the entirety of its regularly scheduled or special called meetings of its full governing body are open and accessible to the public and also available by means of live video and audio electronic access, or livestream access. Penalties for policy violations or non-compliance may not exceed 1 percent of state funds to the district, with escalating tiers based on frequency, duration, and severity. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District from RFA, 1 percent of projected state funds to

the regular and charter districts ranges from approximately \$70,800 to \$6,380,200 for FY 2024-25.

The revenue impact on the state agency schools for violations or noncompliance of the livestream meeting policy is undetermined as it is unknown how many districts will not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by school.

Local Expenditure

This bill requires each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, to make reasonable efforts to ensure its meetings are open and accessible to the public and also available means of live electronic access, or livestream transmission.

The overall expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts will vary. SCDE previously surveyed the regular school districts and the charter districts on similar legislation and received responses from forty-one districts. Of the responding districts, twenty-three indicated that the bill would have no expenditure impact since they currently livestream board meetings. One district indicated that the bill may require overtime from existing staff but could not quantify the cost. The remaining seventeen responding districts indicated that expenses would increase by a range of \$3,000 to \$100,000 per district for equipment, onsite support, and overtime for staff. Additionally, the requirements of the model livestream policy to be adopted by the State Board of Education may affect these costs if they are more expensive.

Local Revenue

The revenue impact on local school districts for violations or non-compliance is undetermined as it will depend on how many districts do not comply with the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the amount of state funds to be withheld will vary by district. Based on data in the Revenue Per Pupil Report by School District from RFA, 1 percent of projected state funds to the regular and charter districts ranges from approximately \$70,800 to \$6,380,200 for FY 2024-25.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director