



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0886 Introduced on January 14, 2020
Author: Massey
Subject: Speech-Language Pathologists
Requestor: Senate Education
RFA Analyst(s): Wren
Impact Date: March 6, 2020

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill, which allows a school district to employ or contract with a speech-language pathologist that does not hold an educator certificate to provide speech-language pathology services for related special education services, will have no expenditure impact on the State Department of Education. Since the bill only refers to speech as a related service and not as a category of disability and specially designed instruction, this bill would only affect a small number of speech-language pathologists who are providing speech therapy as a related service.

Additionally, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (GSAH), the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM), the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, or the School for the Deaf and Blind. The GSAH, the GSSM, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School do not employ speech-language pathologists. Most students attending the School for the Deaf and Blind receive speech services as a disability category for specialized instruction rather than as a related service. Based upon the responses from these agencies, we do not expect the bill will have an expenditure impact on the John de la Howe School.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on local school districts. The State Department of Education surveyed the regular school districts regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. Most of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. Further, most of the responding districts indicate that the bill will make it easier to employ staff or to contract for these speech-language pathology services.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2020

State Expenditure

This bill allows a school district to employ or contract with a speech-language pathologist that does not hold an educator certificate or credential to provide speech-language pathology services for related special education services. The speech-language pathologist must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 67, Title 40.

The State Department of Education indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency. Since the bill only refers to speech as a related service and not as a category of disability

and specially designed instruction, the bill will only affect a small number of speech-language pathologists who are providing speech therapy as a related service.

The GSAH, the GSSM, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that they do not employ speech-language pathologists. The School for the Deaf and Blind indicates that most of its students receive speech services as a disability category for specialized instruction rather than as a related service. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the GSAH, the GSSM, the School for the Deaf and Blind, or the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Based upon these responses, we do not expect that this bill will have an expenditure impact on the John de la Howe School.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill allows a school district to employ or contract with a speech-language pathologist that does not hold an educator certificate or credential to provide speech-language pathology services for related special education services. The speech-language pathologist must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 67, Title 40.

Local School Districts. The State Department of Education surveyed the regular school districts regarding the expenditure impact of this bill. Most of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. Further, most of the responding districts indicate that the bill will make it easier to employ staff or to contract for these speech-language pathology services. Therefore, we do not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on local school districts.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director