



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H. 3151
 Author: G.R. Smith
 Requestor: House Education and Public Works
 Date: April 13, 2015
 Subject: Study of U.S. Constitution
 RFA Analyst(s): Fulmer and Walling

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	Minimal	N/A
Other and Federal	Minimal	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	N/A	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have minimal impact to the General Fund, Federal Fund, or Other Fund expenditures.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

State Expenditure

This bill amends Section 59-29-120, 59-29-130, and 59-29-140 relating to the required history education of the United States. Currently, these statutes require that all publicly supported high schools, colleges, and universities provide instruction on the US Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Federalist Papers. This instruction must be given for at least one year and any guidelines related to the instruction are under the jurisdiction of the State Superintendent of Education. The bill amends Section 59-29-120 by allowing higher education institutions to satisfy the statute by providing and assigning related reading materials selected by the Commission on Higher Education. The bill updates Section 59-29-130 to require the instruction be given at least once for an undergraduate degree. The bill amends Section 59-29-140 by replacing the State Superintendent of Education with the Commission of Higher Education as the authority for making appropriate arrangements for compliance with the Statute in regards to public colleges and universities.

The State Department of Education. US History and Constitution is a required course for graduation that is already included in the standards. Therefore, there is no expenditure impact to the agency.

Commission on Higher Education (CHE). CHE reports minimal costs associated with implementing the proposed legislature. CHE expects these costs to be absorbed within their current level of funding.

CHE surveyed all of the Higher Ed institutions regarding expected costs associated with complying with the bill. Most colleges and universities general education requirement include courses covering the material required by the statute. CHE expects to work with the institutions and provide for as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the legislation so as to avoid implications with accreditation and to keep any incurred costs for the institutions and students to a minimum. With this in mind, the institutions expect minimal costs to the General Fund, Federal Fund, or Other Funds that can be absorbed with the current level of funding.

State Revenue


N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director