



**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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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 3614	Introduced on January 12, 2021
<b>Author:</b>	Lucas	
<b>Subject:</b>	Student Aid	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Education and Public Works	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Wren	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	February 26, 2021	

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill requires high school seniors to complete and submit a free application for federal student aid before graduating from high school, with the exception of certain exemptions. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to develop and adopt a form for the purpose of declining the application and to adopt rules to implement the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the superintendent must establish an advisory committee to assist the State Board in adopting rules to implement the bill.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the State Department of Education (SDE) since any expenses associated with convening the advisory committee and other requirements pursuant to the bill can be managed within current appropriations.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools. All students attending the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics currently complete a free application for federal student aid. Since the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School does not offer a high school credential, the bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency. We anticipate that any expenses pursuant to the provisions of the bill for the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the School for the Deaf and Blind can be managed within current appropriations.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on local school districts since any expenses associated with printing forms and providing required data to the department are expected to be managed within the existing budgets of the districts.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

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

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill requires high school seniors to complete and submit a free application for federal student aid before graduating from high school, with the exception of certain exemptions. The State Board of Education must develop and adopt a form for the purpose of declining to complete the application. The State Board must also adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. The rules must include a timeline for the distribution of the application

and form to students, standards regarding the information that a school district or charter district must provide to students, a requirement that each school district report certain items to SDE, and the means for ensuring compliance with federal law regarding the confidentiality and privacy of student information. Further, the Superintendent must establish an advisory committee to assist the State Board in adopting rules to implement the bill and to develop recommendations. The advisory committee must be comprised of school counselors, school administrators, and stakeholders to represent the needs of students. The provisions of the bill begin with the 2022-23 school year.

**State Department of Education.** SDE indicates that any expenses associated with convening the advisory committee and other requirements pursuant to the bill can be managed within current appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency.

**State Agency Schools.** The Governor's School for Science and Mathematics indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the agency since all of its students attend a college or university after graduation and currently complete a free application for federal student aid. We anticipate that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School since the school does not offer a high school credential. Further, we anticipate that any expenses associated with the provisions of the bill for the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the School for the Deaf and Blind can be managed within current appropriations. Therefore, this bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

#### **State Revenue**

N/A

#### **Local Expenditure**

This bill requires high school seniors to complete and submit a free application for federal student aid before graduating from high school, with the exception of certain exemptions. Rules adopted by the State Board of Education must include a timeline for the distribution of the application and form to students, standards regarding the information that a school district or charter district must provide to students, a requirement that each school district report certain items to SDE, and the means for ensuring compliance with federal law regarding the confidentiality and privacy of student information. Further, the Superintendent must establish an advisory committee to assist the State Board in adopting rules to implement the bill and to develop recommendations. The advisory committee must be comprised of school counselors, school administrators, and stakeholders to represent the needs of students. The provisions of the bill begin with the 2022-23 school year.

SDE does not anticipate that this bill will have an expenditure impact on local school districts. Any expenses associated with printing forms and providing required data to the department are expected to be managed within the existing budgets of the districts.

#### **Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director