

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 312**

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TO:	The Honorable John E. Courson, Chairperson, Senate Education Committee		
FROM:	State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rachael Fulmer		
DATE:	March 19, 2013	SBD:	2013156

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AUTHOR:	Senator Ford	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-29-155
SUBJECT:	Civics and Geography education		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

This Bill would amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 59-29-155 that would require each school district to provide at least one course of instruction that encompasses civics and geography to students in the fifth, eighth, and eleventh grades. The course must be at least one semester in length. This Bill would require the State Department of Education to assist the school districts with locating and developing appropriate curricula for this instruction.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The State Department of Education indicates that civics and geography standards already exist in the approved South Carolina Social Studies Standards and students are already receiving this instruction in fifth grade, eighth grade, and through high school courses. However, if it is assumed that SDE would be designing a new course and developing curriculum, it would be a non-recurring cost to the state of \$85,000 as well as \$11,250,000 to \$18,750,000 for instructional material.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

The State Department of Education notes that the agency does not design courses or curriculum for school districts and that these services would be contracted.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart  
Assistant Director, State Budget Division