

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 516**

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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:	May 7, 2013	SBD:	2013226

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AUTHOR:	Senator Peeler	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-155-110
SUBJECT:	South Carolina Read to Succeed Act		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

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

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

The Bill would amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1975, to enact the “South Carolina Read to Succeed Act,” by adding Chapter 155 to Title 59. This Bill would create the South Carolina Read to Succeed Office and a reading proficiency panel within the office and provides related requirements of the State Department of Education, State Superintendent of Education, school districts, colleges and universities that offer certain related graduate education.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Office at the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) would require 6 new FTEs with a recurring cost of \$474,500 (1 Office Director, 3 Education Associates, and 2 Program Coordinators II). The SCDE projects there would be approximately \$25,000 in recurring operation expenses associated with this new office.

The Reading Proficiency Panel permits its 6 members to receive mileage and per diem. SCDE is unable to quantify the mileage expenses because no members have been selected. However, SCDE assumes this panel will meet monthly and receive \$35 in per diem per meeting for a total of \$2,520 plus mileage expenses.

Therefore, the total costs would be \$502,020 plus mileage expenses for members of the Reading Proficiency Panel.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

1. School districts are required to develop, submit and implement a district reading plan to the Read to Succeed Office for approval. The SCDE assumes school districts will absorb the costs to develop these plans within their budgets as no funding is appropriated to school districts to pay for the development of the reading plans.
2. All public school students enrolled in prekindergarten and kindergarten are to be administered a school readiness assessment. The SCDE estimates the per pupil cost of a school readiness assessment is \$18 per pupil. The state budget currently appropriates approximately \$3,000,000 in flow-through funding for school districts to use to offset part of the cost of local formative assessments.

3. Included in this Bill are requirements for intervention for students who do not demonstrate 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency. As currently written, this section does not require the state to pay for any interventions; therefore, no impact to SCDE. The state budget currently appropriates \$136,163,204 for students at risk of school failure.
4. In addition this Bill mandates summer reading camps. According to internet searches for similar reading camps in Florida, the cost is estimated to be \$325-\$400 per student. This does not include the cost of transportation.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

All teachers with certification in early childhood education, elementary education and special education would be required to obtain an add-on certification in literacy within a 6-year period or 7-year period, depending on when the teacher earned certification. This section also requires middle and high school certified teachers to take 3 reading courses, and requires certain school and district administrators to take 2 reading courses. There would be no impact to SCDE; however, SCDE assumes teachers and administrators will pay the cost for this coursework: \$320 per credit hour x 3-credit hour course x (5) 3-credit hour courses = \$4,800.

Approved by:



Brenda Hart  
Assistant Director, State Budget Division