



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.

Bill Number:	S. 0974	Signed by Governor on May 21, 2024
Author:	Bennett	
Subject:	Accredited Institutions	
Requestor:	Senate	
RFA Analyst(s):	Tipton	
Impact Date:	May 22, 2024	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill extends Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship funding to qualifying students attending not for profit institutions in the state accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

This bill is expected to increase Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship disbursements by approximately \$263,000 beginning in FY 2024-25, based upon the number of students attending the one not for profit institution currently accredited by the ACCSC that are expected to qualify for each scholarship. Currently, the American College for the Building Arts (ACBA) is the only not for profit higher education institution accredited by the ACCSC in the state and has a total student population of 142. Of this total, we expect approximately 37 students will qualify for the LIFE Scholarship, 9 students will qualify for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, and 6 students will qualify for the Hope Scholarship based on the average percentage of in-state, undergraduate students at other institutions who qualified for each scholarship in the 2022-23 academic year. Please note, other not for profit institutions may seek to obtain ACCSC accreditation to allow their students to gain eligibility for state scholarships, which would increase scholarship outlays in future years. However, the impact on scholarship disbursements of future ACCSC accredited not for profit institutions is currently unknown.

This bill will have no impact on the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) or the SC Technical College System (Tech System), as both entities have indicated that any additional requirements as a result of the bill will be managed with existing resources.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Signed by Governor on May 21, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill adds not for profit institutions accredited by the ACCSC to the definition of public or independent institutions for the purposes of extending Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship funding to qualifying students attending those institutions.

Currently, ACBA is the only not for profit higher education institution accredited by the ACCSC in the state and has a total student population of 142. CHE does not collect or maintain academic

information from this institution. Therefore, the actual number of current students who would qualify for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, or Hope Scholarships is currently unknown. However, based upon the average percentage of in-state, undergraduate students at other institutions who qualified for each scholarship in the 2022-23 academic year, we anticipate approximately 37 students attending ACBA will qualify for the LIFE Scholarship, 9 students will qualify for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, and 6 students will qualify for the Hope Scholarship. Based on the maximum annual award amount of \$7,500 for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, \$5,000 for the LIFE Scholarship, and \$2,500 for the Hope Scholarship, this bill is expected to increase Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and Hope Scholarship disbursements by approximately \$263,000 beginning in FY 2024-25. This represents a 0.09 percent increase in expected FY 2024-25 scholarship outlays.

Please note, other not for profit institutions may seek to obtain ACCSC accreditation to allow their students to gain eligibility for state scholarships, which would increase scholarship outlays in future years. However, the future impact on scholarship disbursements of additional ACCSC accredited not for profit institutions is currently unknown.

Additionally, this bill may result in additional requirements for CHE in their facilitation of scholarship disbursements. CHE and the Tech System have indicated that any additional responsibilities resulting from the bill will be managed with existing staff and resources. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on CHE or the Tech System.

State Revenue

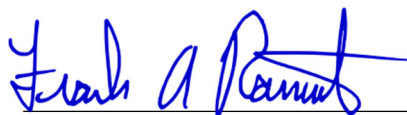
N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director