

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 304** SLS 26RS 77

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 10, 2026 7:09 PM	<b>Author:</b> EDMONDS
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education	<b>Analyst:</b> Tanesha Morgan
<b>Subject:</b> Accreditation	

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES OR NO IMPACT See Note  
Provides for accreditation for public colleges and universities. (gov sig)

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Present law requires public colleges and universities to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Proposed law provides that a public college or university may seek a new institutional or specialized program accreditor, subject to compliance with proposed law. Provides that the Board of Regents, in coordination with each higher education management board, shall set policy regarding institutional and specialized accreditation. Proposed law provides that institutions seeking a new accreditor must apply for approval from their higher education management board. Provides that any new accreditor must promote credential success and workforce outcomes, educational quality and affordability, and financial stability of the institution, and ensure accountability through rigorous annual faculty review. Proposed law provides that if a new accreditor is sought, the management board shall coordinate with the Board of Regents to gain or maintain accreditation and keep the public informed of accreditation progress on the institution's website.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure. Proposed law expands the options of accreditors from which a college or university may select when seeking institutional accreditation. However, the bill does not require a college or university to change accreditors. To the extent a college or university elects to change accreditors, there will be application fees and consulting fees associated with that transition.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**