

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11



Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i>	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i>	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i>	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i>	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Bryce Wilson	(803) 856-0555	bwilson@che.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Jeffery Perez	(803) 322-2918	jperez@che.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:		

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education
Agency Code:	H030
Section:	11

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Administrative Salary and Fringe Increase	752,640	0	0	0	752,640	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	FTE Position Funding Source Alignment	0	0	0	0	0	4.90	-0.65	-4.25	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Statewide Electronic Library Core Infrastructure & Content Funding (PASCAL)	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Increase Other Funds Authorization for the State Electronic Library	0	0	600,000	0	600,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			2,252,640	0	600,000	0	2,852,640	4.90	-0.65	-4.25	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Administrative Salary and Fringe Increase
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$752,640 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$752,640
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>These seven positions will help to further the mission of the SC Commission on Higher Education and the state's Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective of Education, Training and Human Development: Improve educational infrastructure to elevate the levels of educational preparedness of every South Carolinian to lead a healthy and productive life, including success in a job or career and in the community.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	Vacant FTE positions.
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FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Historically, the CHE has not utilized opportunities to request additional funding in its Administration line for personnel through the annual EBO process. The agency has not requested funding for salary increases, reclassification of positions, or funding to cover increased hiring ranges for new employees. Historically, the agency has used excess personnel funds due to continual position vacancies to cover these routine increased costs.

In response to recent external reviews, the agency seeks to improve its services to the state by filling all the remaining FTE positions. Currently, the agency does not have the funding to fill 7 of its 14 positions. A list of these positions and the funding amount to fill them at the mid-point of the salary range, along with the amount for fringe per position is attached. The agency requests \$752,640 in total to fund these seven positions.

The agency also requests to reclassify one of the vacant FTE position from unclassified to classified.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	FTE Position Funding Source Alignment
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$0 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$0
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	N/A
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	N/A
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FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

The CHE is requesting a realignment between FTE positions and funding sources. In FY2024, funding (\$400,000) was moved from Lottery Administration (non-recurring) to the agency's administration line (recurring). In addition, a federal grant will end in September 2024. Positions funded with these Other and Federal sources need to be re-aligned back to state funding.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Statewide Electronic Library Core Infrastructure & Content Funding (PASCAL)
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$1,500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$1,500,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>The Statewide Electronic Library (Also known as PASCAL) operates through CHE pursuant to the Commission's statutory responsibility to "encourage development of joint programs" (SECTION 59-104-260).</p> <p>CHE serves as the fiscal agent for PASCAL through a Memorandum of Understanding that is executed each fiscal year.</p> <p>This request supports objective 2.1.1.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	<p>Funds are used to support shared library technology (shared library services -- catalog -- and remote authentication platforms) used by the state's academic libraries to provide access to information resources, and also for databases, journals, and</p>
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

ebooks.

Allocations to vendors are based on existing contracts and licenses. Through August 2025, the primary system contract is with ExLibris, (#4400018824). A new procurement is in process (Solicitation #5400013582). This contract award would run through FY31-2. The consortium's multiple license agreements for databases, journals, and ebooks operate on both annual and multi-year terms.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The state's 237,973 higher education students, as well as faculty and staff, at 55 public and independent institutions of higher education benefit from the use of these funds for procurement and support of shared library technology and subscriptions to core educational resources provided via libraries in electronic formats.

Since 2004, the Statewide Electronic Library has provided resources, systems, and services while generating over \$200 million in cost-avoidance for its member libraries.

Since 2018, the Exlibris Shared Library Service Platform (catalog) has been the bedrock of the service. The shared catalog provides a common interface for students' research needs ensuring consistency and support for the college and workforce journey, including transfer and dual enrollment. The service is provided with a 20% savings for the state over what individual institutions previously paid for individual unlinked systems. Core content provided through multiple publishers includes over 25,000 journals, 435,000 ebooks and an aggregated statewide collection of 10 million print items.

State funds are used to support the maintenance of these systems and services, thus guaranteeing universal student access to the basic information resources foundational to general and technical higher education.

This infrastructure support benefits students at all of the state's academic institutions, but it is especially crucial for the 67% of students who do not attend one of the state's research institutions (USC, Clemson, and MUSC). These three universities alone account for 53% of academic library expenditures in South Carolina.

Currently, state funds account for 26% of overall PASCAL spending, including 45% of the costs for core infrastructure described above. Given that only \$164,280 of funds allocated to the program are recurring in the Statewide Electronic Library budget line, PASCAL operates using lottery proviso funds received the previous fiscal year. Thus, \$1.5 million from the FY23-4 lottery proviso will support current operations. Lottery proviso funds allocated in FY24-5 will be used in FY25-6 given the timing of their anticipated receipt.

Sustainable recurring funding would more efficiently promote access for all students across the state. Loss of funding would jeopardize the academic success of South Carolina students, particularly those at small and rural colleges, and could threaten the accreditation of smaller institutions.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Increase Other Funds Authorization for the State Electronic Library
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$0</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$600,000</p> <p>Total: \$600,000</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>The Statewide Electronic Library (Also known as PASCAL) operates through CHE pursuant to the Commission's statutory responsibility to "encourage development of joint programs" (SECTION 59-104-260).</p> <p>CHE serves as the fiscal agent for PASCAL through a Memorandum of Understanding that is executed each fiscal year.</p> <p>This request supports objective 2.1.1.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	<p>Funds are used to support shared library technology (shared library services -- catalog -- and remote authentication platforms) used by the state's academic libraries</p>
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

information through databases, journals, and ebooks; and for PASCAL staff support. Current authorization for State Electronic Library program activities is \$4,186,577. Anticipated program growth, particularly in the licensing of databases, journals, and ebooks, requires an additional \$600,000 in authorization.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The state's 237,973 higher education students, as well as faculty and staff, at 55 public and independent institutions of higher education benefit from the use of these funds for procurement and support of shared library technology and subscriptions to core educational resources provided via libraries in electronic formats.

In addition to these technologies and core resources which are universally available to all students at every institution, PASCAL negotiates "opt-in" agreements for member libraries with content providers in the academic marketplace. These agreements expand content available to students in various specialized disciplines. Costs are passed through from the institutions, but central payment to vendors is a major component of the savings generated.

Since 2004, the Statewide Electronic Library has provided resources, systems, and services while generating over \$200 million in cost-avoidance for its member libraries.

Program growth in this opt-in licensing program is projected to require an additional \$600,000 in spending authorization through FY25-6.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM D – PROVISIO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	11.17
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Prohibition of Discriminatory Practices
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	N/A
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>The CHE requests that the words "print and" be deleted from the first sentence of the proviso. The Commission on Higher Education distributes the information electronically every year to the colleges and universities. No printed versions are distributed.</p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

11.19. (CHE: Prohibition of Discriminatory Practices) (A) In the current fiscal year and from the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education, the commission shall ~~print and~~ distribute to all South Carolina public colleges and universities the definition of anti-Semitism.

(B) For purposes of this proviso, the term "definition of anti-Semitism" includes:

(1) a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;

(2) calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews;

(3) making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective;

(4) accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;

(5) accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;

(6) accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations;

(7) using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis;

(8) drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis;

(9) blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions;

(10) applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation;

(11) multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations; and

(12) denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist, provided, however, that criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

(C) South Carolina public colleges and universities shall take into consideration the definition of anti-Semitism for purposes of determining whether the alleged practice was motivated by anti-Semitic intent when reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of a college or university policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion.

(D) Nothing in this proviso may be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right

protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or Section 2, Article I of the South Carolina Constitution, 1895.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
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FORM D – PROVISIO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	11.19
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Battelle Alliance at Savannah River National Lab Deletion
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Nonrecurring Funding
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Delete
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	The funding as outlined in this proviso has been distributed
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

~~11.23. (CHE: Battelle Alliance at Savannah River National Lab) Of the funds appropriated for the Battelle Alliance, twenty percent shall be allocated to South Carolina State University, forty percent to the University of South Carolina, and forty percent to Clemson University. The funds must be expended collaboratively to conduct research partnerships and develop workforce training programs designed to fill engineering, science, research, and management positions. The three universities shall provide the Battelle Alliance with accredited academic personnel, intellectual capital, and resources necessary to build out research capabilities and programs. Prior to the allocation or expenditure of any funds, the three universities shall collaborate and submit to the Commission on Higher Education a comprehensive plan and timeline for how the funds will be utilized to further the mission and support of the Savannah River National Lab. The plan also must be reviewed by Battelle for alignment with laboratory missions and university goals. This collaborative plan must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education and approved by its Board of Commissioners. After approval of the plan, the commission shall submit the plan to the Joint Bond Review Committee for review and comment and to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority for approval before any funds can be allocated or expended. If the plan is not approved by June 30, 2024 by the Commission on Higher Education, Joint Bond Review Committee, and State Fiscal Accountability Authority, all funds must then be remitted back to the general fund of the state. Funds allocated for this purpose shall not be transferred or utilized for any other purpose.~~

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
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FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	11.6
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Lottery Administration
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Amending the proviso language ensures that Foster Youth will receive the maximum Need-based grant available to all students while also raising the additional amount available to Foster Care Youth to \$3,500. The amended language increases the amount that may be expended from the appropriated need-based grants funding for Foster Care Youth to no more than \$250,000.</p> <p>The Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) tracks the inflation rate specific to higher education costs, including tuition, fees, room, and board. Between 2002 (inception of the SC Need-based Grant, to include Foster Care Youth) and today, the HEPI has consistently shown an increase, reflecting the rising costs in this sector. In FY2002, the HEPI recorded a 1.8% increase, following a 3.4% rise in FY2001. Recently, in FY2023, the HEPI recorded a 6.3% increase, following a 7.2% increase in FY2022. Since 2002, these cost increases have contributed to a substantial overall rise in the cost of higher education. In addition, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, the national average undergraduate tuition, fees, room, and board rates charged for full-time students in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, 2001-02 through 2022-23 increased by 143 percent.</p> <p><i>HEPI 2023 Report: Figure 1 – Higher Education Price Index vs Consumer Price Index; page 5 and Table A – Historical Summary of Higher Education Price Index and Consumer Price Index; National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 2023</i></p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

11.8. (CHE: Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth) For the current academic year, youth in the custody of the Department of Social Services and attending a higher education institution in South Carolina are eligible for additional need-based grants funding of up to ~~\$2,000~~ **\$3,500** above the ~~\$3,500~~ **annual** maximum. Foster youth must apply for these funds no later than May first, of the preceding year. All other grants, both state and federal, for which these foster youth are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the additional need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for a foster youth is met with other grants and scholarships, then no additional need-based grant may be used. The Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education will track the numbers of recipients of this additional need-based grant to determine its effectiveness in encouraging more foster youth to pursue a secondary education. No more than ~~\$100,000~~ **\$250,000** may be expended from currently appropriated need-based grants funding for this additional assistance.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	117.140
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	National Guard College Assistance Program
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	General Provisions
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	SC Military Department
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>SC Military Department and National Guard indicates the program is used as a recruitment tool. Stakeholders met on numerous occasions and agreed to raise the current benefit and cap this year to determine if the adjustments will aid in the increase of enrollment numbers with the Air and Army National Guard.</p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

CHE has lottery carryforward funds in the amount of \$10,330,534 in addition to the \$6,200,000 allocated FY 24-25. Increasing the benefit and raising the cap has a projected potential cost of up to approximately \$13,000,000 per year if all eligible National Guard members were to receive the maximum benefit. National Guard College Assistance Program benefits are typically awarded after other aid is applied, so as long as the total aid does not exceed costs to attend college.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

117.140. (GP: National Guard College Assistance Program) For the current fiscal year, a member of the SC National Guard may qualify for college assistance program grants for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Additionally, service members may receive ~~a total of twenty-two thousand dollars in total grants to cover college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to~~ one hundred percent of ~~college~~ tuition and fees ~~for the academic year not to exceed twelve thousand dollars~~ for the academic year. The lifetime maximum amount received shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Tuition and fees are defined as the amount charged for registering for credit hours of instruction, costs of textbooks, and other fees and charges associated with attendance at an eligible institution. Service members shall be required to meet all other requirements. Service members should complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive all eligible federal and state scholarships and grants.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	3.5
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	LEA: FY 2024-2025 Lottery Funding
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Lottery Administration
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
-------------------------	-------

Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	N/A
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>Amend language to include independent South Carolina institutions with an approved College Transition Program (CTP). Additionally, we propose the inclusion of language allowing unexpended and/or carryforward funds to be used for start-up or expansion funding for both current and future CTPs in South Carolina. This adjustment would support program growth and sustainability. The amount would not exceed \$90,000 per program. See breakdown of estimated start-up costs below:</p> <p>Start Up:</p> <p>Staff resources (time/effort) \$25,000</p> <p>Campus programming (curriculum, software, fees, etc.) 35,000</p> <p>Housing, meals, etc. - if applicable (one term) 25,000</p> <p><u>Communications, community outreach etc. 5,000</u></p> <p>Reasonable Cap \$90,000</p> <p>Accessibility: The SC Department of Education’s Department of Special Services has identified 1,000 students that exit the public school district in SC each year that may qualify for a CTP experience. There is a need to increase the capacity in our current programs and/or create new programs in additional geographical areas of SC.</p> <p>Affordability: The lowest residential program cost per academic year is \$28,000, which exceeds the existing CTP funding.</p>
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Institutions are allocated Need-based grant funding and have the flexibility to award eligible students up to a maximum of \$3,500 per student. The flexibility to award funds allows for adjustments throughout the year if needed. Unused funding can be reallocated to public institutions that have eligible students with remaining need within the fiscal year.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

3.5. (LEA: FY 2024-25 Lottery Funding) There is appropriated from the Education Lottery Account for the following education purposes and programs and funds for these programs and purposes shall be transferred by the Executive Budget Office as directed below. These appropriations must be used to supplement and not supplant existing funds for education. For cash flow purposes, the Executive Budget Office may facilitate limited transfers from the general deposits of the state for the exclusive purpose of ensuring the timely distribution of scholarships and tuition assistance payments as provided below. Any use of this transfer allowance must include full reimbursement from the Education Lottery Account to the general deposit accounts of the state prior to the close of the fiscal year.

The Executive Budget Office is directed to prepare the subsequent Lottery Expenditure Account detail budget to reflect the appropriations of the Education Lottery Account as provided in this section.

All Education Lottery Account revenue shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year including any interest earnings, which shall be used to support the appropriations contained below.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2022-23 certified surplus, and Fiscal Year 2023-24 projected surplus and undesignated fund balance are appropriated as follows:

(1) Commission on Higher Education - LIFE Scholarships as provided in Chapter 149, Title 59 \$ 210,341,233;

(2) Commission on Higher Education - HOPE Scholarships as provided in Section 59-150-370 \$ 12,113,310;

(3) Commission on Higher Education - Palmetto Fellows Scholarships as provided in Section 59-104-20 \$ 63,259,863;

(4) Commission on Higher Education and State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – Tuition Assistance \$ 51,100,000;

(5) Commission on Higher Education – Need-Based Grants \$ 80,000,000;

(6) Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission – Tuition Grants \$ 20,000,000;

(7) Commission on Higher Education - SC National Guard College Assistance Program as provided in Section 59-111-75 \$ 6,200,000;

(8) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – South Carolina Workforce

Industry Needs Scholarship \$ 78,651,047;

(9) South Carolina State University \$ 2,500,000;

(10) Commission on Higher Education - Nursing Initiative \$ 10,000,000;

(11) Commission on Higher Education - PASCAL \$ 1,500,000;

(12) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – readySC \$ 5,000,000.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, funds certified from unclaimed prizes are appropriated as follows:

(1) Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services – Gambling Addiction Services \$ 100,000;

(2) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – South Carolina Workforce Industry

Needs Scholarship \$ 15,348,953;

(3) Instructional Materials \$ 1;

(4) Commission on Higher Education – College Transition Program Scholarships \$ 3,551,046;

and

(5) Commission on Higher Education – Newberry College Dyslexia Program \$ 1,000,000.

Any unclaimed prize funds available in excess of the Board of Economic Advisors estimate of \$20,000,000 shall be appropriated as follows:

Department of Education – School Bus Purchase \$ All remaining.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the cash balance of lottery funds on hand at the Commission on Higher Education at the end of Fiscal Year 2022-23 are appropriated as follows:

(1) Clemson University – Student Experiential Learning \$ 4,500,000;

(2) University of South Carolina System – Carolina Internship Pilot Program \$ 4,500,000;

(3) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education –High Demand Job Skill Training

Equipment \$ 25,000,000;

(4) Department of Education – School Bus Purchase \$ 28,299,999;

(5) Department of Education – Instructional Materials \$ 35,000,000;

(6) Commission on Higher Education – Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP) \$ 9,000,000;

(7) Graduate Medical Education \$ 1;

(8) State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education – Intellectual and Developmental

Disabilities Pilot Program \$ 700,000;

(9) Commission on Higher Education – Technology – Public Four-Year, Two-Year, and State

Technical Colleges \$ 8,000,000;

and

(10) Department of Education – Teacher Strategic Compensation Pilot Program \$ 5,000,000.

If the lottery revenue received from certified unclaimed prizes for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is less than the amounts appropriated, the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education for Tuition Assistance must be distributed to the technical colleges and two-year institutions as provided in Section 59-150-360. Annually, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall develop the Tuition

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

The provisions of Section 2-75-30 regarding the aggregate amount of funding provided for the Centers of Excellence Matching Endowment are suspended for the current fiscal year.

The Commission on Higher Education is authorized to temporarily transfer funds between appropriated line items in order to ensure the timely receipt of scholarships and tuition assistance. It is the goal of the General Assembly to fund the Tuition Assistance program at such a level to support at least \$996 per student per term for full-time students.

Fiscal Year 2024-25 net lottery proceeds and investment earnings in excess of the certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for this period are appropriated and must be used to ensure that all LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships for Fiscal Year 2024-25 are fully funded.

If the lottery revenue received for Fiscal Year 2024-25 certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2023-24 projected surplus, and Fiscal Year 2022-23 certified surplus and the undesignated fund balance are less than the amounts appropriated, the Executive Budget Office is authorized to use surplus lottery proceeds accumulated in the lottery account from previous fiscal years to fully fund appropriations from the lottery authorized by the General Assembly. If a revenue shortfall still exists once the fund balance has been exhausted, then the projects and programs receiving appropriations for any such year shall have their appropriations reduced on a pro rata basis, except that a reduction must not be applied to the funding of LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.

The Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is authorized to use up to \$70,000 of the funds appropriated in this provision for Tuition Grants to provide the necessary level of program support for the grants award process.

Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for College Transition Scholarships, the commission shall provide scholarships to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public ***or independent*** institution of higher education in an established College Transition Program (CTP) that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The commission, in consultation with the CTPs, shall develop guidelines establishing scholarship eligibility, retention, and/or renewal requirements in accordance with this paragraph. Scholarships shall be awarded to each South Carolina resident student enrolled in an established public CTP in an amount of at least \$2,500 per semester, not to exceed ***\$10,000 \$15,000*** per academic year (including summer semester), and no student may receive a scholarship for more than eight semesters in total. In addition, the limitations of Proviso 11.12 notwithstanding, individual CTPs shall have the discretion to allocate a portion of their aggregate funding provided pursuant to this provision for need-based grants to eligible students. This discretion is allowable only to the extent that the funding for need-based grants for eligible CTP students provided pursuant to Proviso 11.12 has first been fully exhausted. The commission, in cooperation with the CTPs, shall collect and report the number of scholarship recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these scholarships in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. The commission shall provide this report to the Governor, the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee no later than September 30. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and used for the same purpose, except that: 1) up to \$250,000 may be used by the CTP consortium (known as The South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium) to be used collaboratively by the consortium to promote better awareness of CTP programs statewide as an option for youth with intellectual disabilities after high school through dedicated support for activities such as, but not necessarily limited to, student recruitment, development and maintenance of a consortium website and associated materials, and the provision of strategic informational events for prospective students and families across the State; and 2) ***the commission may use unexpended and/or carryforward funding to expand College Transition Programs in South Carolina through start-up and/or expansion funding (not to exceed \$90,000 per program) for current and future CTP programs to support program growth and opportunities for South Carolina residents.***

Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for Need-Based Grants, public colleges and universities must submit ~~requests to carry forward Need-Based Grants to the Commission on Higher Education by June 30, 2025, and final invoices for Need-based Grants by a date determined by the commission. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, all eligible students must be awarded up to the maximum allowable amount prior to any Need-Based Grant funds being carried forward. Funds only shall be carried forward if all eligible Need-based Grant students at the public colleges and universities are fully funded with financial aid that does not require student repayment.~~ Funds allocated for Fiscal Year 2025-26 must be distributed in the same academic year.

Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the Nursing Initiative, the commission shall use the funds to address the nursing shortage. Funds shall be allocated accordingly to the state's public colleges and universities, including technical colleges and two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina, that have accredited nursing programs accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. For purposes of this provision, two-year institutions of the University of South Carolina System shall be eligible if their programs are accredited by and/or through the accreditation of a comprehensive or research institution within the University of South Carolina system. The first \$5 million shall be used to provide bonuses or supplement the salaries of existing full-time faculty and the hourly rates of part-time faculty, or the salaries of clinical nursing faculty, which includes adjunct faculty. The funds shall be allocated to each public college or university, including technical colleges, based on the number of students enrolled in nursing programs as defined by the Commission on Higher Education. The second five million shall be used to provide tuition reimbursement or scholarships for students enrolled in regionally accredited, not-for-profit, South Carolina based, public and private institution's graduate-level Master of Science (MSN) programs, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Ph.D., or other like programs appropriate to prepare individuals for faculty roles. The recipient must agree to assume a faculty role in a public South Carolina nursing program after graduation for a minimum of two years for each year they receive the scholarship. Annually by February 1, the Commission shall report on the Nursing Initiative, at a minimum, the following: (1) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships; (2) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships subsequently hired as faculty; (3) total number of students receiving tuition reimbursements or scholarships not hired as faculty; (4) amount of funding allocated to each institution with eligible nursing programs; (5) expenditures and encumbrances of Nursing Initiative funds for eligible faculty for each program; and (6) retention rates, new hires and vacancies for full-time, part-time (including adjunct), and clinical faculty for each eligible program. The Commission may also request institutions to provide other information related to nursing workforce development. This report shall be submitted to the House Education and Public Works Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Education Committee, and Senate Finance Committee.

Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for institutions of higher learning entitled "Technology-Public Four Year Institutions, Two Year Institutions, and State Technical Colleges," (Technology), the commission shall allocate the realized funds on a proportional basis as follows:

- (1) The Citadel \$ 336,141;
- (2) University of Charleston \$ 704,188;
- (3) Coastal Carolina University \$ 699,612;
- (4) Francis Marion University \$ 320,888;
- (5) Lander University \$ 341,677;
- (6) South Carolina State University \$ 262,080;

(7) USC - Aiken Campus \$ 310,494;

(8) USC - Upstate \$ 394,951;

(9) USC - Beaufort Campus \$ 240,556;

(10) USC - Lancaster Campus \$ 131,927;

(11) USC - Salkehatchie Campus \$ 98,932;

(12) USC - Sumter Campus \$ 116,052;

(13) USC - Union Campus \$ 109,659;

(14) Winthrop University \$ 389,413;

and

(15) State Technical Colleges and State Board

for Technical and Comprehensive

Education \$ 3,543,430.

Each institution shall use the amount appropriated only for technology repair and related technology maintenance and/or upgrades that are necessary to support an institution's educational purpose.

Prior to the utilization of these funds, institutions must certify to the Commission on Higher Education, in a manner it prescribes, the extent to which they have met this requirement.

Not later than one hundred twenty days after the close of the fiscal year, the Commission on Higher Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee regarding the utilization of this provision.

Funds not expended in the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year and utilized for the same purpose, subject to certification from the Commission on Higher Education that they continue to meet the requirement of this provision.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$1,237,444
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	Approximately 3 – 4 FTEs
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>The short term plan would be to offset the 3% reduction with funds carried over from FY 2023-24 under Proviso 117.23 which authorizes agencies to carry forward up to 10% of general fund appropriations. However, a 3% general fund reduction that extends beyond the current fiscal year would need to be offset by a reduction in recurring expenditures. All programs of the agency, with the exception of federal programs and our licensing work, would be affected by a three-percent reduction of General Funds. This would include offices of the President and Executive Director, Internal Operations and Administration, Academic Affairs, Student Services, Fiscal Affairs, Data-Management & IT, and Strategic Initiatives and Engagement.</p> <p>The CHE would apply the three-percent reduction across the board, which would affect passthrough funds (\$35,152,487) to other entities and stakeholders, including the \$24 million in the agency’s budget that provides need-based grants and Palmetto Fellows scholarships to South Carolina students, and funds for the agency operations (\$6,095,658). The only passthrough funds not affected would be the Southern Regional Educational Board’s \$6,585,183 which are exempt from budget cuts via Proviso 11.5. Therefore, the effect of a 3% budget reduction on the agency’s operating costs would be approximately \$380,425.</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p>The General Funds reduction applied to agency operations would primarily affect personnel costs and directly reduce the number of staff available to carry out the mission of the CHE as outlined in the agency’s Accountability Report. The offices of the President and Executive Director, Internal Operations and Administration, Academic Affairs, Student Services, Fiscal Affairs, Data-Management & IT, and Strategic Initiatives and Engagement would all be impacted by the FTE reductions. To accommodate this reduction, the agency would not fill vacant positions due to retirement or other employee turnover.</p>
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

The agency has and continues to look at cost saving measures. The agency is currently migrating its database from an antiquated system to a new, more widely adopted system. This will result in annual cost savings greater than \$50,000 as the agency will no longer need to contract with specialized consultants familiar with the current database's architecture. The agency is also procuring new IT systems to make employee work more efficient and effective. This will allow staff to focus on other important work to fulfill the agency's statutory mission and reduce the need to hire additional staff in addition to providing efficiencies for students, families, and the agency's institutional partners. In addition, the agency will be conducting a space utilization study and technology efficiency study in the next year which might lead to increased efficiency and cost savings.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Commission On Higher Education		
Agency Code:	H030	Section:	11

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Updated data system, electronic payments, online portals
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	>\$100,000 on a recurring basis
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	<p>Mark "X" for all that apply:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Repeal or revision of regulations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other								

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Annual salary and benefits for one FTE and time savings for businesses, the public and other public officials.
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	<p>The agency is undertaking multiple initiatives to reduce the burden on the public, businesses, and other governmental officials. The CHE has recently instituted the option to accept ACH and credit card payments as a convenience and service to the public and institutions. Currently, the option to pay via credit card or ACH is only for institutions paying licensing fees or participation fees for SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements), but the use may be expanded in the future. Another initiative is upgrading the agency's data management system, which will provide dashboards of higher education data for public and governmental consumption without the need to perform intensive queries, thereby saving internal staff time and delivering results more seamlessly. The agency is implementing online portals for constituents, which allows for submitting online applications and requesting services, such as transcripts and scholarship applications, electronically. In addition, the agency will be conducting a space utilization study and technology efficiency study in the next year which might lead to increased efficiency and cost savings.</p>
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Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?