**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**A44, R63, H3632**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Erickson, Spann-Wilder and Bauer

Document Path: LC-0176WAB25.docx

Introduced in the House on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the Senate on April 30, 2025

Currently residing in the Senate

Governor's Action: May 12, 2025, Signed

Summary: STEM scholarship stipends

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 12/12/2024 House Prefiled

 12/12/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works**

 1/14/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 272)

 1/14/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** (House Journal‑page 272)

 2/5/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

 4/8/2025 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Bauer

 4/24/2025 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works** (House Journal‑page 46)

 4/29/2025 House Read second time (House Journal‑page 27)

 4/29/2025 House Roll call Yeas-112 Nays-0 (House Journal‑page 27)

 4/29/2025 Scrivener's error corrected

 4/30/2025 House Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal‑page 34)

 4/30/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal‑page 6)

 4/30/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education** (Senate Journal‑page 6)

 4/30/2025 Senate Polled out of committee **Education** (Senate Journal‑page 11)

 4/30/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Education** (Senate Journal‑page 11)

 5/6/2025 Senate Read second time (Senate Journal‑page 62)

 5/6/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 (Senate Journal‑page 62)

 5/7/2025 Senate Read third time and enrolled (Senate Journal‑page 39)

 5/8/2025 Ratified R 63

 5/12/2025 Signed By Governor

 5/19/2025 Effective date 05/12/25

 5/19/2025 Act No. 44

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3632&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/12/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3632_20241212.docx)

[02/05/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3632_20250205.docx)

[04/24/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3632_20250424.docx)

[04/29/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3632_20250429.docx)

[04/30/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/3632_20250430.docx)

(A44, R63, H3632)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑149‑15, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL LIFE SCHOLARSHIP STIPENDS, AND SECTION 59‑104‑25, RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP STIPENDS, BOTH SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN COURSEWORK IN ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STATISTICS MUST COUNT TOWARDS CERTAIN REQUIRED FRESHMAN YEAR COURSEWORK IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE, AND TO CLARIFY THESE PROVISIONS APPLY BEGINNING WITH ACCOUNTING MAJORS WHO COMPLETED SUCH COURSEWORK AS FRESHMEN IN THE 2024‑2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

LIFE Scholarship stipends

SECTION 1. Section 59‑149‑15(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (B) The Commission on Higher Education by regulation shall define what constitutes a science or mathematics major, applicable beginning with the 2024‑2025 School Year to persons who did not receive a LIFE Scholarship stipend before the 2024‑2025 School Year. This definition of a science or mathematics major must include, at a minimum, majors in science or mathematics disciplines, computer science or informational technology, engineering, accounting, and healthcare and related disciplines including medicine and dentistry; provided, that nothing herein prevents a student from changing majors within acceptable science or mathematics disciplines. For purposes of determining stipend eligibility of accounting majors, courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and business statistics completed by an accounting major in his freshman year must count towards the requirement in subsection (A) that the student shall complete at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and science courses during the student’s freshman year, and these provisions apply beginning with students who took microeconomics, macroeconomics, and business statistics courses as freshman accounting majors during the 2024‑2025 School Year so as to enable them to have those courses count toward the fourteen‑hour coursework requirement in subsection (A) for purposes of attaining LIFE Scholarship stipend eligibility.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship stipends

SECTION 2. Section 59‑104‑25(B) of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 (B) The Commission on Higher Education by regulation shall define what constitutes a science or mathematics major, applicable beginning with the 2024‑2025 School Year to persons who did not receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship stipend before the 2024‑2025 School Year. This definition of a science or mathematics major must include, at a minimum, majors in science or mathematics disciplines, computer science or informational technology, engineering, accounting, and healthcare and related disciplines including medicine and dentistry; provided, that nothing herein prevents a student from changing majors within acceptable science or mathematics disciplines. For purposes of determining stipend eligibility of accounting majors, courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and business statistics completed by an accounting major in his freshman year must count towards the requirement in subsection (A) that the student shall complete at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and science courses during the student’s freshman year, and these provisions apply beginning with students who took microeconomics, macroeconomics, and business statistics courses as freshman accounting majors during the 2024‑2025 School Year so as to enable them to have those courses count toward the fourteen‑hour coursework requirement in subsection (A) for purposes of attaining Palmetto Fellows Scholarship stipend eligibility.

Time effective

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 8th day of May, 2025.

Approved the 12th day of May, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_