

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| CODE:      | PL02              |
| COMMITTEE: | P&L               |
| DATE:      | September 1, 2026 |

**SUBJECT/TITLE**

Approval of Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance (First Reading)

**PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM**

To fulfill the requirements of Act 191 by adopting a Model Code of Ethics that establishes statewide expectations for ethical conduct, accountability, and effective governance among local boards of trustees.

**CRITICAL FACTS**

Act 191 requires the State Board of Education to adopt a Model Code of Ethics for local boards of trustees. The proposed Model Code outlines expectations for ethical leadership, legal compliance, accountability, and sound governance practices. It emphasizes the responsibility of trustees to act in the best interests of students and communities while maintaining the public's trust in South Carolina's public education system.

**TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 14, 2026      | Senate passes S.70, amend the SC Code of Laws provide school board member code of ethics and by adding Section 59-19-45, relating to mandatory training for school district trustees. |
| May 18, 2026      | Governor signs Act 191                                                                                                                                                                |
| September 1, 2026 | The SCDE presents to the SBE for First Reading approval.                                                                                                                              |

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**COST:**

**FUND/SOURCE:**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no  
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

**Name of Attachments:**

Model Code of Ethics and Effective Board Governance (First Reading)

**RECOMMENDATION**

The SCDE recommends that the SBE approve the model code for a first reading.

**ACTION REQUEST**

FOR APPROVAL: ☒

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☐