



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	H. 4876	Introduced on February 7, 2018
Author:	S. Rivers	
Subject:	School Resource Officer	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Powell	
Impact Date:	March 19, 2018	

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditure	\$46,157,680	\$0
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires that school districts ensure the continuous presence of a school resource officer at each public school during regular operating hours. This would result in increased recurring local expenditures of \$46,157,680 in FY 2018-19, which would be shared by the school districts, counties, and municipalities depending on local decisions. It is possible that in some cases a county or municipality may have an existing officer to assign to schools at no additional cost, but without a comprehensive assessment of each county and municipality this cannot be determined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 7, 2018

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill requires that school districts ensure the continuous presence of a school resource officer at each public school during regular operating hours. The district is directed to first request the placement of such an officer from the county or municipality in which it is located, and if the county or municipality declines the district is required to enter into a cost sharing agreement for the placement of such officers, hire officers or employees to serve as a resource officers, or a combination of these throughout the district, so long as the employee is a sworn law enforcement officer.

Based upon a survey by the Department of Education (Department) of the school districts, the average cost associated with employing a school resource officer is \$61,136. This includes salaries, benefits, and operating expenses. There are currently 1,237 public schools. Of the 788 schools responding to the survey, 483 schools, or sixty-one percent of schools, do not currently have a full time school resource officer. Extrapolating the survey results statewide by taking sixty-one percent of 1,237 yields an estimate of 755 schools without a full time school resource officer. The cost to put a full time school resource officer in each of these schools would be \$46,157,680. For this calculation, we assume that a new officer would need to be hired to accommodate schools that currently have school resource officers on a part-time or periodic basis.

The bill requires districts to first request such an officer from local law enforcement agencies. If they are unable to provide such an officer, the district may enter into a cost sharing agreement or hire an officer. It is possible that in some cases a county or municipality may have an existing officer to assign to schools at no additional cost, but without a comprehensive assessment of each county and municipality this cannot be determined.

We also assume that districts would be able to coordinate with local law enforcement agencies at no additional cost for temporary assistance when the school resource officer is on sick leave or annual leave. This results in a local expenditure impact of \$46,157,680.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director