



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: H.4963 Introduced on February 20, 2018
Author: King
Subject: School Resource Officers
Requestor: House Education and Public Works
RFA Analyst(s): Powell
Impact Date: March 20, 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	\$102,708,480	\$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, with at least one school resource officer for every five hundred students enrolled at the school. This would result in increased recurring local expenditures of \$102,708,480 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 quantified.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 20, 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, with at least one school resource officer for every five hundred students enrolled at the school. This is calculated based on the number of students enrolled at the school at the end of the preceding school year. 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. Based on the FY 2017-18 45-Day Headcount report, the Department reports that 2,162 school resource officers would be required to provide one school resource officer per 500 students. The Department also surveyed the local school districts regarding school resource officers. Of the 788 schools in responding districts, 305 schools, or 39 percent, reported having at least one full-time school resource officer. We extrapolated this number statewide by taking 39 percent of the 1,237 public schools to yield an estimated 482 school resource officers currently in schools. We subtracted the number of school resource officers in schools from the total number needed to achieve the ratio prescribed by the bill. 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. This resulted in the need for an additional 1,680 school resource officers. At a cost of \$61,136 per officer, the total cost for school resource officers is \$102,708,480.

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 quantified.

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 \$102,708,480.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director