

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2016 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 187

Patron: Taylor

Date: 2/1/2016

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

New public school buildings; plans or blueprints; indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alerting system. Requires the plans or blueprints for the construction of a new public school building to include an indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alerting system.

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**Executive Summary:**

As per the provisions of HB 187, localities would be required to include indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alerting system in the plan or blueprints for the construction of a new public school building. While the bill does not specify that such improvements are required to be constructed, the localities' fiscal analyses are based on the inclusion of such system in the construction of a new public school building.

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact of \$15,000 - \$225,000 for the construction of a new public school building with indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alerting system. The provision of the bill would impact the construction cost of all new schools in all localities in some way. Localities noted that the cost would vary based on the size of the school with an ongoing cost for maintenance.

Additionally, localities noted that the provisions of the bill should be in the form of guidance or recommendation to schools, not as a mandate.

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**Local Analysis:**

**Locality:** Chesapeake Public Schools

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$100,000.00

Includes annual fee for service. New Construction only. One school for us.

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Locality: City of Chesapeake

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$100,000.00

Chesapeake school officials estimate it will cost an additional \$100,000 per school to design and install active shooter gunshot detection and alerting systems. This would be a capital cost. We can anticipate added annual maintenance and operating costs, but have no estimates of those. There are three new school buildings in the School Boards capital funding request. Currently only one (a school replacement) is in the capital improvement plan. Construction of that building should start within the next 12 months.

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**Locality:** City of Danville **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$150,000.00

This estimate was provided by Danville Public Schools in conjunction with Shooter Detection Systems of Rowley, MA. Covering entrance points and main hallways runs \$25K-\$45K, with additional costs for added coverage. Estimated fiscal impact noted is per school.

**Locality:** City of Lynchburg **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$15,000.00

Based on an estimate from Secure Tech for a school building with about 12 entrances and including the cost of the control panel , wireless network, and access to the PA system.

**Locality:** City of Norfolk **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$120,000.00

The cost of this bill as proposed is estimated to be \$120,000 per high school, \$65,000 per middle school, and \$30,000 per elementary school. The cost to install the indoor active shooter gunshot detection and alerting system in new public schools depends on the size (measured in square feet) of the school. Installation is estimated to cost up to \$0.44 per square foot, based on a recent system installation at a high school in Massachusetts.

The average size of a high school in the City of Norfolk is 274,000 square feet and, at \$0.44 per square foot, a system installation is estimated to cost \$120,000. The average size of a middle school is 146,000 square feet and is estimated to cost \$65,000. An average elementary school is 65,000 square feet and is estimated to cost \$30,000. It is unknown what ongoing costs may be incurred at this time.

**Locality:** Frederick County Public Schools **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$225,000.00

Given the newness of these reactive method systems and technologies, the cost comparison is made to a fire alarm system throughout a building - which is \$2.20 per square ft, so for each 100,000 sq ft, the cost would be \$220,000.

Caution for this proposed legislation - false alarms, on-going maintenance cost, plus the enhanced cost of the gun fire or flash recognition.

Recommendation - focus on proactive systems instead of reactive. Proactive protocols are outlined by CPTED CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN - 1)access control to site and building, 2) surveillance for better understanding of the situation, and 3) communication systems within the building

**Locality:** Henrico County **Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$100,000.00

The estimate only includes acquiring system. This does not include any maintenance costs or potential replacement costs after 5-10 years.

**Locality:** Rockingham County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$25,000.00

Assuming one new facility or substantial modification/additions to a school facility every four years, and a total instillation cost of \$100,000, annual cost would be \$25,000 plus operational expenses. This should be in the form of guidance or recommendation to Schools, not a mandate. It seems like such resources would be better spent on video cameras equipped with an audio component that could detect gunshots or explosions (or shouting or any loud noise of that matter), systems that could be used daily, not only in the event of a gunshot/explosion; a system that could not only detect the noise, but also provide images of the situation.

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