

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1469

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Concealed handguns on school property

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation contains the following provisions relating to the carrying of concealed handguns on school property:

1. Authorizes each local school board to designate at each school in the district one or more teachers, principals, or other employees to carry a concealed handgun on school property.

The provision would also apply to private schools and allow the administrator to designate the persons who could carry concealed handguns on school property.

Any person designated to carry a concealed handgun on school property must be certified and trained by either (a) the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety of the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) or (b) any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training program conducted pursuant to the minimum training standards established by DCJS.

2. Requires DCJS to establish minimum standards for the training and certification of persons designated to carry concealed handguns on school property.
3. Requires the Center for School and Campus Safety, within DCJS, to provide training for and certification for any person designated to carry a concealed handgun on school property.
4. Exempts persons designated to carry concealed handguns on school property from several criminal provisions relating to the possession of concealed handguns and brandishing a firearm.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications:

There will be costs to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation, but the extent and upon whom the costs would fall cannot be determined until the minimum training standards and certification requirements are developed. The process of developing minimum training standards is guided by the Administrative Process Act and requires approximately 18 months to complete. The costs would fall into two areas:

- Minimum standards—DCJS would be required to develop minimum training and certification standards and, to do so, it would need additional staff or it would need to divert current staff from the updating of minimum training standards and curricula for law-enforcement officers.
- Training—A person designated by a school board to carry a concealed handgun at a school could choose a training course administered by either the Center for School and Campus Safety of DCJS or the National Rifle Association. Because it is not possible to project which course designees will choose, DCJS would need to be prepared to offer training if so requested. It is assumed that the training would consist of both classroom work and time at a firing range. In addition, the development of a certification process implies basic training and/or in-service training on a periodic basis to maintain the certification. DCJS does not own or operate a firing range nor does it have qualified firearms trainers on its staff. The cost of a firing range is indeterminate because it is not clear how many individuals would need the training. There would also be additional costs for operating such a range, such as the cost of ammunition. Finally, DCJS would need to employ a qualified firearms instructor at an annual cost of approximately \$80,000. While it is not clear in the proposed legislation, DCJS might be able to satisfy the training requirement by entering into agreements with one or more state, regional, or local law enforcement or public safety training academies to provide the required training to the school designees.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Criminal Justice Services
County and city school boards

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/16/2017