

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 37

Special Session:

Patron: Anderson

Date: 1/11/2022

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:

School boards; school resource officers; employment; threat assessment. Requires each school board to enter into a collaborative agreement with the local law-enforcement agency to employ at least one school resource officer in each public middle and high school in the local school division and at least one school resource officer per five public elementary schools in the local school division, who is required to serve in each such elementary school on a rotating basis. The bill also requires each division superintendent to include on the threat assessment team established for each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division at least one school resource officer employed in the school.

Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 - \$0.86 million.

Localities reported the bill would produce a negative fiscal impact equivalent to the cost of hiring and training the additional FTE needed to meet the staffing ratios. The bill represents a recurring cost increase to these localities. Some localities reported no fiscal impact, as they are already meeting the staffing ratios stated in the bill.

Additionally, localities noted that the bill does not state if the staffing requirements would extend to all alternative and program sites which serve students; as such, some estimated include the costs of staffing those sites while others do not. Including these sites in the bill's requirements would increase the fiscal impact on affected localities.

Local Analysis:

Locality: City of Danville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$271,500.00

Danville Public Schools works closely with law enforcement partners and recognizes the need for additional SROs. In order to comply with the bill, DPS would need to hire an additional 3 SROs. Hiring, training, and equipping these officers would likely cost, at minimum, \$271,500 to start with ongoing costs.

Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$225,000.00

We would need to hire at least 3 additional resources officers.

Locality: City of Manassas

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$140,000.00

Manassas already has a school resource officer in our middle and high schools. This would be an additional \$140,000 estimated fiscal impact to hire, train, and equip one new school resource officer that would serve our five elementary schools on a rotating basis.

~~~~~

**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$861,630.00

Estimated costs for salaries and benefits for School Resource Officers (SROs) is based on FY22 SRO pay information provided by the City of Roanoke finance office. The average of this salary and benefit information is \$57,442. The legislative summary does not reference alternative and program sites, but we are assuming that all sites that serve middle and high school students would be expected to be covered by one SRO per school. Therefore we would be expected to have 6 SROs covering our 2 high schools and 4 high school program sites, one for each of our 5 middle schools, and one for every 5 elementary schools would amount to 4 elementary SROs (we have 17 elementary schools). This is a total of 15 positions x \$57,442 = \$861,630.

~~~~~

Locality: City of Williamsburg

The City of Williamsburg operates a joint school system with James City County. Currently, the localities provide resources officers at the High and Middle Schools in their locality. The City of Williamsburg has one middle school and one elementary school located in the City. We are currently meeting the requirements for the middle school. The cost of providing a resource officer one day a week for the elementary school would be approximately \$13,050. Minimal impact.

~~~~~

**Locality:** City of Winchester

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$45,000.00

This is the cost to add one SRO at our elementary level, currently we do not have an SRO at that level.

~~~~~

Locality: County of Bland

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

In Bland County, this is already being done. All schools have a SRO and those SROs participate on the threat assessment team for the schools. Therefore, no additional expense is expected for Bland County to implement.

~~~~~

**Locality:** Henrico County.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Henrico County already meets the ratios mandated by this bill.

~~~~~

Locality: Rockingham County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$500,000.00

Currently, SRO's are only at the four high schools. The school division would be required to hire 4 SRO's for Middle Schools, 2 SRO's for the Technical Center and Learning Academy and 4 SRO's for the Elementary Schools.

~~~~~

**Locality:** Town of Chincoteague, Inc

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The Town of Chincoteague currently provides and SRO to the Local High School due to the County's refusal to provide one. This position is funded partially with a grant from DCJS and partially from the Town's annual budget. This billshifts this critical staffing position to Accomack County Schools who already provides 3 SRO's for other County Schools.

~~~~~  
Locality: Town of Leesburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$656,092.00

Using the cost averages of the current SROs and vehicles, the below table outlines the total cost of adding 4 new FTEs: \$656,092

The current staffing level is 6 SROs and 1 Supervisor for a total of 7 FTE. They are allocated for 3 middle schools and 3 high schools. However, the Town of Leesburg has 1 Alternative High School, and 8 elementary schools in addition to the currently served schools (3 HS and 3 Middle). According to the language of the bill below, it looks like the bill would require 3 additional SROs (1 for the alternative HS and 2 rotating for the 8 elementary schools) and probably another Supervisor (Chief can confirm), so 4 total FTEs.

~~~~~