

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1217

House of Origin	<u>X</u>	Introduced	___	Substitute	___	Engrossed
Second House	___	In Committee	___	Substitute	___	Enrolled

2. Patron: Lewis

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: **Firearm safety education program; school boards to offer in elementary grades**

5. Summary: Allows local school boards to offer firearm safety education programs in the elementary grades. To assist local school boards opting to provide such instruction, the Board of Education (BOE) must establish a standardized program of firearm safety education for students in the elementary school grades to promote the protection and safety of children. The bill requires the program objectives incorporate, among other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules of the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program. Local school boards offering the program must comply with BOE's curriculum guidelines and integrate the instruction in appropriate subject areas, if feasible, to ensure that every elementary school student receives instruction in firearm safety education.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Elementary schools are defined as any public school with grades kindergarten through five. This legislation requires local school boards electing to provide firearm safety education to integrate firearm safety education into appropriate subject areas and, if feasible, to ensure that every elementary grade student completes the course of study in firearm safety education. Since BOE is only required to develop curriculum guidelines, local school divisions would have to develop their own standardized program based on BOE's guidelines.

Implementing the provisions of this bill would have a fiscal and administrative impact on the BOE and the Department of Education (DOE). The curriculum guidelines are required to be incorporated, among other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules upon which the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program offered by the National Rifle Association is based. Since DOE does not have an existing applicable curriculum or subject matter expert on staff, more than likely DOE will have to contract out for assistance in developing the curriculum guidelines. However, DOE cannot accurately estimate the potential cost of contractual work necessary to meet the requirements of this legislation at this time. Furthermore, the legislation is expected to have a fiscal and administrative impact on local school divisions since they would need to develop the program, possibly purchase materials

and hire teachers to implement this program. However, the local impact cannot be accurately estimated at this time, since implementation needs will vary by each school division.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, Department of Education and local school divisions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/2/2010 dpbsbj

Document: G:\Legislation\2010\Posted\HB1217.doc