

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1730

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

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: School resource officers

5. Summary: Requires each local school board to establish a collaborative agreement with local law-enforcement agencies to employ one full-time uniformed school resource officer in every school in the local school division.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 139.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: At present, there are 1,981 school buildings in the Commonwealth. According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), 935 schools have either a full-time or part-time school resource officer (SRO), or 47 percent. The majority of the school resource officers are at middle and high schools. Currently, these positions are locally funded.

Based on information provided by DCJS, the estimated first year cost of a new full-time SRO is \$128,000, including salary, benefits, operating costs, and equipment (such as weapons, uniforms, radios, and vehicles). The second year and ongoing costs will be an estimated \$69,000 per position. In addition, the cost to train each new participant is estimated at \$225. Finally, there will be a need to provide an additional two positions for DCJS to handle the increased workload associated with training these additional officers. The cost to fund these two positions is estimated at \$164,000 annually.

Subtracting 935 schools with existing SROs from the total of 1,981 school buildings leaves 1,046 new officers to be hired. Since the positions would all be full-time, the estimated cost in the first year is \$133.9 million, with ongoing costs of approximately \$72.2 million. In addition to these costs would be added the estimated \$236,000 in training costs and \$164,000 for the related positions at DCJS. Based on the statutory location of this proposed legislation, it implies that the intent is for localities and the state to share in the cost of these positions. At present, the average state share of cost for public education is approximately 55 percent, although this can vary significantly by division based on the composite index of local ability-to-pay. Based on this assumption, the state share of SRO costs would be \$73.6 million the

first year and \$39.7 million in subsequent years, with the balance of costs covered by localities.

If the assumption is that the state will cover the cost of all SROs, the cost for the existing 935 officers would also need to be added to the costs cited above for the new positions. This cost is estimated at an additional \$64.5 million each year with the state share being \$35.5 million.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Education, Department of Criminal Justice Services, local school divisions, and local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to Senate Bill 940.

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