

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB940

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Stuart

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: School resource officers

5. Summary: Requires every school board throughout the Commonwealth to coordinate with its local law-enforcement agency to provide at least one school resource officer for every public elementary, middle, and high school within the district. The bill provides that funding for these school resource officers shall be provided through the general appropriation act and not by any locality or school board.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 139.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

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. If the positions are all full-time, the estimated cost to the general fund 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. The costs for the SROs will be less if these positions are only part-time rather than full-time employees.

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. Because it is unknown how many of the existing officers are part-time versus full-time, these costs will be below the full-time costs of \$64.5 million to support 935 officers full-time.

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 House Bill 1730.

Date: 1/14/13

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