

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1309

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: Cole

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Local school boards; arming of school security officers.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation would permit local school boards to arm school security officers (SSOs) with batons, stun weapons, or any spray device designed to incapacitate a person and to allow school security officers to use such devices under the appropriate circumstances.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time. Not all schools employ SSOs, and it is not known how many divisions would choose to arm the officers. Local school divisions that do choose to arm SSOs may have a local fiscal impact due to the cost of ongoing training for school security officers and administrators, as well as the purchase and secure storage of the equipment. If school division expenditures increase significantly, it may have an impact when the Standards of Quality (SOQ) expenditure base is rebenchmarked. Any such SOQ cost increase would not impact the state budget until FY2019.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) sets compulsory minimum standards for employment and job-entry and in-service training curricula and certification requirements for SSOs. DCJS, through the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, also provides training for and certification of SSOs. Although it is not specified in the bill, it is assumed that the training and certification requirements for SSOs will need to be modified to address armed SSOs. There are several bills currently being considered by the legislature that would direct DCJS to develop specific new policies and training standards. With its current resources and staff, the agency feels that it can handle requirements to develop up to two new policies in any one year. If more than two of these bills were enacted, depending on the complexity of the model policies involved, the agency could need additional resources to implement them in a timely manner. The cost of an additional position to handle such policy and standards development would be approximately \$82,000, including benefits.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: The bill does not direct the Department of Criminal Justice Services to update SSO training and certification requirements prior to a local school board decision to arm SSOs. The bill also does not require currently certified SSOs to be recertified pursuant to any new requirements established by DCJS prior to carrying the weapons permitted by the legislation. Since SSO certification is valid for two years and the bill would permit local school boards to arm SSOs beginning on July 1, 2015, the provisions of this legislation could allow for currently certified SSOs to carry and use permitted weapons at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year without additional training.

Date: 2/3/2015 dpb/smc

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