

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2734

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: Bourne

3. Committee: House Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Department of Criminal Justice Services; school resource officers; school administrators; training.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services (Department) to establish compulsory minimum training standards for law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers that shall include (i) relevant state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, behavioral health or substance abuse disorders, or trauma experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including child and adolescent development. This bill also expands the topics of training required for school security officers working with students in a school environment to include: de-escalation techniques; awareness of cultural diversity and implicit bias; working with students with disabilities, behavioral health or substance abuse disorders, or trauma experiences; and child and adolescent development. This bill also requires each school board to ensure that every public school employs at least one school administrator who has attended school safety training conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in school safety, anti-bullying tactics, and effective identification of students who may be at risk for violent behavior and are in need of special services or assistance.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 392.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation requires the training and certification of all school resource officers (SRO) by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and expands the topics on which school security officers (SSO) are required to be trained. The proposed legislation also requires that any school board that agrees to place school resource officers in any school in a school division establish and annually review and update a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the relevant local law-enforcement agency, which governs the use and duties of SROs, and to ensure that all relevant parties receive initial and ongoing training on the contents of such an MOU.

Training is currently provided by DCJS only to SROs that are supported by state funding. The Governor's introduced budget (HB1700/SB1100) provides one position and \$427,630 to enable the agency to provide basic training to every SRO and SSO.

The proposed bill would require DCJS to provide training to SROs and SSOs on the following topics: (i) relevant state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, behavioral health or substance abuse disorders, or trauma experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including child and adolescent development. Of these topics, DCJS does not currently provide training on: working with students with substance abuse needs; awareness of cultural diversity; and awareness of implicit bias. These topics would be in addition to existing training currently offered to SROs and SSOs and as a result, DCJS believes it will cost the agency at least \$73,000 to provide training on the expanded training topics which are not currently part of the existing curriculum, as delineated in the proposed legislation. This includes: (i) a one-time cost of up to \$25,000 to create and develop curricula for the three required additional topics; and (ii) \$48,000 to contract with appropriate subject matter experts to conduct ongoing training on the required topics. Furthermore, the addition of these topics to the current curriculum would extend the course length from 36 hours to 48 hours, since each new subject would require a minimum of four hours to teach for an additional 12 hours of instruction. DCJS reports that this may require additional lodging and travel for staff and course participants, the cost of which is unknown at this time.

The proposed legislation also requires that each school board ensures that every public school it supervises employs at least one school administrator who has attended school safety training conducted by DCJS. However, any fiscal impact upon local entities as a result of this provision and the proposed legislation as a whole, is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services; local law-enforcement; local schools.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None