

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2020 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB74

Patron: Kory

Date: 1/27/2020

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Public schools; Mental Health First Aid training. Requires each school board to adopt and implement policies that require each teacher and other relevant personnel, as determined by the school board, employed on a full-time basis, to complete a Mental Health First Aid training or similar program. The bill requires each school board to provide such training and provides that a school board may contract with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, a community services board, a behavioral health authority, a nonprofit organization, or other certified trainer to provide such training.

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**Executive Summary:**

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0.00 - \$200,000.00. Some localities responded with a cost, and noted that the cost would be related to implementation of a mental health training program, retraining, certification, and recertification of relevant personnel. Of those who responded with no cost noted that the bill would not impact them or their school system is county's responsibility. One locality noted that there would be cost but the cost is indeterminate.

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**Local Analysis:**

**Locality:** City of Danville

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$30,000.00

This would reflect the cost of training about 300 employees.

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Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Not able to estimate the fiscal impact. There would be increased costs as city schools would need to contract out with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

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**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Though the City of Roanoke provides funding to our Roanoke City Public School system, that allocation is based on a funding formula tied to our local revenues. The School system is responsible for its own budget process. City Council and the City Manager's Office do not have jurisdiction on how their budget is established or how the School system spends its funds. As such, though this bill will impact the Schools, it has no fiscal impact on the City itself.

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Locality: City of Virginia Beach

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$200,000.00

Creation and implementation of a mental health training and certification process for all teachers and relevant personnel in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools is estimated to cost \$200,000 initially. There would also be additional annual costs as new teachers enter the workforce and must be certified according to the standards set forth by this bill.

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**Locality:** Town of Buchanan

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Our town does not budget for schools as this is handled at the county level.

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Professional and Other Organization

Analysis:

Organization: Northern Neck PDC

Additional state funding should be allocated to accompany the requirement for such training. Already distressed rural counties are would be negatively impacted fiscally by this new requirement.

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