

# Commission on Local Government

## Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

**Bill:** HB837

**Special Session:**

**Patron:** Greenhalgh

**Date:** 2/3/2022

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:

School boards; school resource officers; employment; threat assessment. Requires each school board to enter into a collaborative agreement with the local law-enforcement agency to employ at least one school resource officer in each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division. The bill provides that no school board shall be granted any full or partial waiver from such staffing requirements and that no school board that fails to fully comply with such staffing requirements is eligible for any grant or waiver from the Commonwealth, Board of Education, or Department of Education. The bill also requires each division superintendent to include on the threat assessment team established for each public elementary and secondary school in the local school division at least one school resource officer employed in the school.

### Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 - \$0.9 million.

Most localities reported a large negative fiscal impact equivalent to the cost of hiring and training the additional FTE needed to meet the staffing ratios. The bill represents a recurring cost increase to these localities. Some localities reported no fiscal impact, as they are already meeting the staffing ratios stated in the bill.

Additionally, localities noted that the bill does not indicate if the staffing requirements would extend to all alternative and program sites which serve students; as such, some estimates include the costs of staffing those sites while others do not. Including these sites in the bill's requirements would increase the fiscal impact on affected localities.

### Local Analysis:

**Locality:** City of Danville

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$662,000.00

In order to comply with this bill, additional School Resource Officers would need to be hired and trained. The cost reflected here includes salary, training, equipment, and vehicles for the first year. There would be an ongoing cost for salaries and maintenance. The additional cost would place significant budgetary strain on both organizations.

**Locality:** City of Manassas

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$700,000.00

This legislation would require the Manassas City Public Schools (MCPS) to hire an additional 5 school resource officers to have one in every building. This would be an annual expense of \$700,000 -- increasing with inflation -- for salary, benefits, training, and equipment for these five additional officers each year.

**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$861,630.00

Estimated costs for salaries and benefits for School Resource Officers (SROs) is based on FY22 SRO pay information provided by the City of Roanoke finance office. The average of this salary and benefit information is \$57,442. The legislative summary does not reference alternative and program sites, but we are assuming that all sites that serve middle and high school students would be expected to be covered by one SRO per school. Therefore we would be expected to have 6 SROs covering our 2 high schools and 4 high school program sites, one for each of our 5 middle schools, and one for every 5 elementary schools would amount to 4 elementary SROs (we have 17 elementary schools). This is a total of 15 positions x \$57,442 = \$861,630.

**Locality:** City of Winchester

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$80,000.00

This is for 1 SRO at our elementary school.

**Locality:** Smyth County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$840,000.00

We have 14 schools and while we are fortunate to have grant funding for our current SRO's, we expect to have to pick up the tab if this bill goes through. With a rough estimate of \$60,000 per position (salary + benefits) x 14 schools = \$840,000. This level of increase would be equal to a real estate increase of \$0.06 or an 8% increase.

**Locality:** Town of Chincoteague, Inc

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

This legislation would save the Town of Chincoteague approximately \$26,000 per year as the local match for a DCJS grant that now provides an SRO to our local High School that the County refused to.

**Locality:** Town of Leesburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$656,092.00

Here are the estimates for both personnel and non-personnel (excluding vehicles):

OPERATING EXPENDITURES  
Salaries and Wages \$ 534,515  
Fringe Benefits and Payroll Taxes \$ 247,422  
Total Personnel \$ 781,937  
Occupancy (Rent) \$ -  
Telecommunications \$ -  
Postage \$ 100  
Printing Copying \$ -  
Equipment Purchase/Lease and Maintenance \$ 4,500  
Travel \$ -  
Professional Development \$ -  
Office Supplies \$ 1,200  
Professional Services \$ -  
Dues and Subscriptions \$ 174  
Depreciation \$ -  
Other \$ 10,250  
Total Operating Expenditures \$ 798,161

The current staffing level is 6 SROs and 1 Supervisor for a total of 7 FTE. They are allocated for 3 middle schools and 3 high schools. However, the Town of Leesburg has 1 Alternative High School, and 8 elementary schools in addition to the currently served schools (3 HS and 3 Middle). According to the language of the bill below, it looks like the bill would require 3 additional SROs (1 for the alternative HS and 2 rotating for the 8 elementary schools) and probably another Supervisor (Chief can confirm), so 4 total FTEs.

Using the cost averages of the current SROs and vehicles, the below table outlines the total cost of adding 4 new FTEs: \$656,092

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**Professional and Other Organization**

**Analysis:**

**Organization:** Northern Neck PDC

No fiscal impact.

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