

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

Bill: SB 415

Special Session:

Patron: DeSteph

Date: 1/26/2022

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.

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### Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 - \$19 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.

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### 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.

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Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$425,000.00

The school system currently has SROs at the high school and two middle schools. Would need to add six more for the elementary schools.

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**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.

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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.

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**Locality:** City of Winchester

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

This number is for 2 more SRO's for our elementary schools.

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Locality: County of Albemarle

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1,050,000.00

Albemarle County currently budgets \$560K for 8 FTES assigned as Student Safety Coaches. Should these Safety Coaches qualify as school resource officers under SB 415, Albemarle County Public Schools would need to hire 15 additional Safety Coaches to meet the one officer per school requirement (23 schools within the district). Based upon this budget 1 FTE is approximately \$70,000. Therefore, 15 additional FTEs would equate to \$1,050,000.

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**Locality:** Fairfax County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$19,000,000.00

The fiscal impact would be very significant. Fairfax County currently has School Resource Officers in all high schools and middle schools. In order to meet the requirements of the bill, additional School Resource Officers would have to be hired and assigned to each of the County's 141 elementary schools. Based on current FY 2022 salaries and benefits, the fiscal impact is likely to exceed \$19 million.

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Locality: Norfolk

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1,500,000.00

Norfolk Public Schools and the Norfolk Police Department already have a memorandum of understanding that places a School Resource Officer in every middle and high school in the division. The addition of a School Resource Officer at every elementary school would cost the city the annual salary of the officers for the number of elementary schools in the city. Currently minimum salary for officers is \$50,000 and there are approximately 30 elementary schools. This would also increase the number of Police Officers needed for Norfolk Police Department since the number of officers assigned to school duty would increase.

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**Locality:** Rockingham County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$1,560,000.00

The County has 26 schools that would need to be covered by an SRO. Currently, the system employs four. The funding for the salaries, benefits and equipment of the SRO would be very expensive. The other concern is what will keep them busy all day and in the summer?

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Locality: Town of Leesburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$798,161.00

This would require the addition of 3 additional police officers and one supervising officer. The estimate does not include the cost of vehicles and equipment.

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**Locality:** Town of Marion.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

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Locality: Wise County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Wise County already complies.
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