

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H.3237**

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TO:	The Honorable Phillip D. Owens, Chairperson, House Education and Public Works Committee		
FROM:	State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Bryce Wilson, Earle Powell, Rodney Grizzle		
DATE:	March 13, 2013	SBD:	2013135

AUTHOR:	Representative Sellers	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-66-25
SUBJECT:	School Resource Officer		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3237 amends the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina by adding Section 59-66-25 so as to require every public school district to request a school resource officer (SRO) for each school. The bill also amends Section 5-17-12 to require a municipality or count to designate officers the duty of a SRO upon request.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Based upon responses received from SLED, local governments and the SC Sheriff's Association the cost of a school resource officer will vary based upon location. Currently there are 478 SROs in the state's 1,362 public schools. The recurring annual cost (salary and operating expenses) of an officer ranged from \$37,908 to \$76,926. The average annual cost of a school resource officer excluding the outliers was \$60,415. Based upon the need of 884 additional school resource officers, the total recurring costs would total \$53,406,565.

In addition to the recurring annual costs, a non-recurring, first year cost ranging from \$30,000 to \$46,300 was included by several entities surveyed. The average non-recurring cost per officer was \$40,950 or \$36,199,559 for 884 additional school resource officers.

In addition, the Law Enforcement Training Council would incur costs to provide training to the new SROs including \$250,400 in recurring and \$8,013,993 in non-recurring costs over a two-year period.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

SCDE indicates this Bill would have no fiscal impact on agency expenditures. SCDE assumes the cost of providing the SROs would be borne by the local governments.

SCDE conducted a survey of all school districts to ascertain the number of SROs currently employed by the school districts. The results found that there are 478.34 SROs in the 1,362 schools. (Some SROs currently cover more than one school and for survey purposes, the FTE was equally divided across the schools covered.) To have a SRO in each school would require 884 additional school resource officers.

Law Enforcement Training Council

The Law Enforcement Training Council (LETC) indicates that this Bill will have an impact to the General Fund of the State of approximately \$8,264,393 in recurring and non-recurring costs. There will be a recurring

cost of \$250,400 for Personal Service/Fringe Benefits and operating expenses for 4.00 new Instructor/Training Coordinators II positions. The remaining one-time cost of \$8,013,993 for set-up costs of new trainers (\$40,000), training and construction of a building for ALLERT Active Shooter Training on campus. The training costs for 884 new SROs of \$5,973,993 will be borne over a two-year period. The cost per SRO trainee is \$6,758, assuming that all candidates pass the training the first time. LETC can only train 30 SROs per class, thereby necessitating the two-year period. In addition, the Law Enforcement Training Council would incur a cost of \$2,000,000 for construction of an active shooter house to conduct ALLERT Active Shooter Training on campus.

State Law Enforcement Division:

The State Law Enforcement Division indicates that the average annual cost of an entry level agent is \$76,926 (salary, fringe and operating expenses) in recurring cost and \$44,930 in non-recurring cost for equipment per agent. The first year cost would be \$121,856 per agent.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

The State Budget Division surveyed local governments to assess the impact of this Bill. The following are responses received:

- Spartanburg County estimated a recurring cost of \$3.5 million. The County reports there are 50 schools without an officer; therefore this estimate is based on hiring 50 positions. Non-recurring costs are estimated at \$2.23 million.
- Charleston County estimated a first-year cost of \$1.2 million. They estimated recurring costs of \$750,000 for 11 schools currently not assigned an officer (\$68,182 per officer).
- Greenwood County estimated a recurring cost of \$1,105,000 per year. In addition, they estimate a non-recurring cost of \$510,000 every 5 years for vehicles and equipment. Currently, there are 23 schools in Greenwood County. One district employs 6 school resource officers. The other two districts do not have school resource officers.
- Darlington County estimates a recurring cost of \$467,000 per year for 8 new school resource officers. Non-recurring costs for these officers are estimated at \$370,000.
- McCormick County estimated total costs over \$75,800 per year for two SROs.

Municipal respondents indicated that the impact would vary depending on the number of officers required. It would add significantly to cities' personnel costs if all the costs of an officer are not covered by the school districts.

Richland County Sheriff's Department indicates that the recurring annual cost for salary, fringe and operating expenses would be approximately \$58,345 per Class I Deputy. The first year cost of a Deputy would be \$53,255 in salary and fringe and \$49,140 in cost for equipment per Deputy for a total of \$102,395 per SRO.

*Additional responses will be forward to the committee if they are received.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The South Carolina Sheriff's Association surveyed several local law enforcement agencies around the state and found that the personnel costs will vary with figures ranging from \$70,000 to \$115,000; an average cost of \$90,000 first year costs. Recurring costs thereafter would be between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually. Using 1,000 new SROs first year estimated costs were \$90 million and annual costs of \$50 to \$60 million.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Brenda Hart
Assistant Director, State Budget Division