

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.249**

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| TO: | The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr., Chairperson, Senate Finance Committee | | |
| FROM: | State Budget Division, Budget and Control Board | | |
| ANALYSTS: | Bryce Wilson, Earle Powell, Rodney Grizzle | | |
| DATE: | March 15, 2013 | SBD: | 2013042 |

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| AUTHOR: | Senator Setzler | PRIMARY CODE CITE: | 11-11-250 |
| SUBJECT: | School Resource Officer | | |

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 249 amends the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 11-11-250 so as to provide that beginning with the 2013-14 Annual Appropriation Act, the General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to employ at least one school resource officer (SRO) in every school of every public school district of the State. The Bill also requires a municipality or county to assign a SRO to a school if the district requests it.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The cost to fund at least one SRO in every school in each public school district would vary dependent upon location. Responses were received from SLED, local governments, Richland County Sheriff's Department and the SC Sheriff's Association relating to the cost of a school resource officer. 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 a SRO in each of the 1,362 schools there would be an annual cost of \$82,284,776. Additionally, first year costs averaged \$40,950 per officer.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

SCDE projects no fiscal impact to the Department. The SCDE indicates that Section 1 of the bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate sufficient funds to pay the costs associated with at least 1 school resource officer in every public school. Section 2 provides that a school district transfer funds to the local law enforcement agency to pay for costs of SROs. SCDE presumes that the school districts would seek reimbursement of these costs from a state agency designated to distribute the funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

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 (SLED)

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:



Brenda Hart
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