Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	☐ Corrected ☐	Supplemental						
LRB Number 23-1710/1	Introduction Number	AB-0069						
Description reporting to law enforcement certain crimes and other incidents that occur in or on public school buildings and grounds, requiring certain schools to employ armed school resource officers, and allocating federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding to reimburse schools for costs of employing armed school resource officers								
Fiscal Effect								
Appropriations Rev		. □No						
Permissive Mandatory Per	5.Types of Loc Government Affected rmissive Mandatory crease Revenue rmissive Mandatory Counties rmissive Mandatory Districts	Units Village Cities						
Fund Sources Affected GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations								
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date						
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DPI 2/28/2023

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-	B					

Description

reporting to law enforcement certain crimes and other incidents that occur in or on public school buildings and grounds, requiring certain schools to employ armed school resource officers, and allocating federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding to reimburse schools for costs of employing armed school resource officers

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires each public school, including a charter school, to report any incident that occurs in a school building or on school grounds to local law enforcement. The bill provides that, if 100 or more incidents occur in and on public school buildings and grounds during a school semester, and at least 25 of those incidents result in an arrest, the school must, no later than the first day of the next school year, employ or contract for the employment of a law enforcement officer as an armed school resource officer (SRO) to work at the school.

Under the bill, "incident" is a defined term that includes violations of state and municipal disorderly conduct laws and certain crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, burglary, battery, and arson; but for purposes of counting the number of incidents that resulted in arrest, the definition of "incidents" excludes incidents related to use or possession of alcohol, cigarettes, nicotine, tobacco products, or vaping devices.

The bill also requires DPI to reimburse a school board or the operator of an independent charter school (ICS) that begins employing or enters into a new contract for the employment of an armed SRO as follows for a portion of the districts and ICS for a portion of the costs associated with employing an armed SRO, as follows:

- 1) 75 percent of the costs for the 2023-24 school year.
- 2) 50 percent of the costs for the 2024-25 school year.
- 3) 25 percent of the costs for the 2025-26 school year.

Under the bill, the governor must allocate money received by the state under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to reimburse DPI for these payments to school boards and independent charter school operators.

Local Fiscal Impact: Indeterminate

The number of school districts and ICS that would meet the threshold in the bill to require the employment of an armed SRO cannot be accurately projected. Any district/ICS that hires an armed SRO as a result of the bill would have to absorb the costs from its general operating budget initially; the bill provides for partial reimbursement of those costs (reimbursement by DPI) for the first three years. Over time, the school district/ICS would be responsible for absorbing the full cost of employing the armed SROs.

The bill further directs that DPI be reimbursed for the payments to school districts/ICS from the Governor's discretionary allocation of federal ARPA funds. However, reimbursement for armed SROs would not be allowable for reimbursement with federal ARPA funding, because ARPA funds are to be used to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

State impact: None; no change to GPR appropriations under this bill.

Potential for additional costs borne by school districts and ICS related to hiring armed SROs.