

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 738
 Appropriations

(Delegate Griffith, *et al.*)

Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase
 (School Safety Enhancement Act of 2023)

This bill increases, from \$10.0 million to \$20.0 million beginning in fiscal 2025, the mandated appropriation to the Safe Schools Fund for grants to local school systems and/or law enforcement agencies to assist in placing school resources officers (SROs) in public schools or providing adequate law enforcement coverage for schools without SROs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2024. General fund expenditures for the Safe Schools Fund increase by \$10.0 million annually beginning in FY 2025; special fund revenues and expenditures increase commensurately. The Maryland Center for School Safety can implement the bill with existing resources. **This bill increases a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2025.**

| (\$ in millions) | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | FY 2028 |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| SF Revenue | \$0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 |
| GF Expenditure | \$0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 |
| SF Expenditure | \$0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 | \$10.0 |
| Net Effect | \$0.0 | (\$10.0) | (\$10.0) | (\$10.0) | (\$10.0) |

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local revenues and expenditures increase by \$10.0 million annually beginning in FY 2025. The revenues supplant local funds being used for school safety, but otherwise do not affect total local expenditures.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 30 of 2018, the Safe to Learn Act, defines an SRO as (1) a law enforcement officer assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a local school system or (2) a Baltimore City School Police Officer, as defined in current law.

Each local school system must file a report with the Maryland Center for School Safety that identifies (1) the public schools that have an SRO assigned and (2) if no SRO is assigned to a public school, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school.

Annually, the Governor must include \$10.0 million for the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements established by Chapter 30. Grants must be made based on the proportion of public schools in each jurisdiction.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill increases the mandated appropriation for the Safe Schools Fund by \$10.0 million. As with the current mandate, the additional \$10.0 million must be distributed based on the number of schools in each local school system. Therefore, local revenues for school safety increase by a total of \$10.0 million; the distribution of these funds is shown in **Exhibit 1**. Local expenditures increase commensurately.

Exhibit 1
Distribution of Additional \$10.0 Million Mandated for School Safety

| <u>County</u> | <u># of Schools</u> | <u>% of Schools</u> | <u>Allocation</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Allegany | 26 | 1.8% | \$183,099 |
| Anne Arundel | 126 | 8.9% | 887,324 |
| Baltimore City | 154 | 10.8% | 1,084,507 |
| Baltimore | 179 | 12.6% | 1,260,563 |
| Calvert | 26 | 1.8% | 183,099 |
| Caroline | 10 | 0.7% | 70,423 |
| Carroll | 44 | 3.1% | 309,859 |
| Cecil | 29 | 2.0% | 204,225 |
| Charles | 39 | 2.7% | 274,648 |
| Dorchester | 13 | 0.9% | 91,549 |
| Frederick | 69 | 4.9% | 485,915 |
| Garrett | 12 | 0.8% | 84,507 |
| Harford | 55 | 3.9% | 387,324 |
| Howard | 77 | 5.4% | 542,254 |
| Kent | 5 | 0.4% | 35,211 |
| Montgomery | 210 | 14.8% | 1,478,873 |
| Prince George's | 200 | 14.1% | 1,408,451 |
| Queen Anne's | 14 | 1.0% | 98,592 |
| St. Mary's | 32 | 2.3% | 225,352 |
| Somerset | 9 | 0.6% | 63,380 |
| Talbot | 8 | 0.6% | 56,338 |
| Washington | 44 | 3.1% | 309,859 |
| Wicomico | 25 | 1.8% | 176,056 |
| Worcester | 14 | 1.0% | 98,592 |
| Total | 1,420 | 100% | \$10,000,000 |

Source: Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 613 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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