



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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**Bill Number:** H. 4972 Introduced on February 21, 2018  
**Author:** Lowe  
**Subject:** School Protection Officer Act  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Powell and Gardner  
**Impact Date:** March 21, 2018

**Estimate of Fiscal Impact**

	<b>FY 2018-19</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>
<b>State Expenditure</b>		
General Fund	Pending	\$0
Other and Federal	Pending	\$0
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
<b>State Revenue</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Other and Federal	Pending	\$0
<b>Local Expenditure</b>	Pending	\$0
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0

**Fiscal Impact Summary**

The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon further information from the State Law Enforcement Division and information from the colleges and universities.

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on February 21, 2018**

**State Expenditure**

This bill allows, beginning in FY 2019-20, a school board (which includes both local public school boards and boards of trustees of public institutions of higher learning) to designate employees as school protection officers to provide armed protection using firearms or self-defense spray and other related public safety functions, with training from the Criminal Justice Academy as required by the Law Enforcement Training Council. Participation in the school protection officer program is voluntary, and any compensation for serving as such must be funded by the employing school, which is prohibited from using state funds to provide this compensation.

The bill lists the requirements to become a school protection officer, which include holding a valid concealed weapons permit (CWP), completing the required school protection officer training, and keeping the weapon on his person at all times while on the premises except when locked in the school firearm safe, keeping the weapon concealed when not in use or locked in the firearm safe, and using only frangible bullets.

Applicants must apply in writing to the school using forms created by the Department of Education (Department) and furnished by the school in its offices and on its website. After the required criteria are met, the application must ultimately be approved by the school board.

Within thirty days of designating an employee as a school protection officer, the school board must provide written notification of the designation to the director of the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). SLED is required to maintain a listing of all persons designated by school districts as school protection officers and to make this list available to all law enforcement agencies.

This bill also requires the agency to develop guidelines for a one week training program at the Criminal Justice Academy for school protection officers. It lists specific items that must be included in the training that address decision making, conflict resolution, and first responder first aid.

**Department of Education.** The Department is required to create application forms for those seeking designation as a school protection officer. The Department anticipates there will be no expenditure impact associated with the creation of this form.

**Commission on Higher Education.** We expect the impact to colleges and universities to be similar to the impact to the school districts. However, as college campuses are typically much larger in area, an additional number of firearms safes may be needed. Colleges would also incur costs associated with training these officers, which may not be paid by state funds. We are working with the Commission on Higher Education to determine any additional impacts on the colleges and universities. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon information regarding impacts to the colleges and universities.

**State Law Enforcement Division.** SLED is still reviewing the portions of the bill relating to training to determine if an impact will occur. The agency is also reviewing the portions of the bill relating to maintaining a list of all school protection officers to determine how it needs to be implemented. SLED indicates that if the agency is required to identify a new type of CWP to track certifications for School Safety Officers, an expenditure impact may occur for making changes to the CWP system. We are working with SLED and the expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon further information from SLED.

**Law Enforcement Training Council.** This bill requires the agency to develop guidelines for a one week training program at the Criminal Justice Academy (Academy) for school protection officers and offer the training program at the Academy. The agency must also certify that school protection officers have successfully completed training. The agency indicates that developing the training can be managed within its existing appropriations and authorizations. The agency indicates that the cost for a week of training, including meals, instructional salaries and materials is \$525 per school protection officers. If funding is not otherwise provided, the agency plans to charge participants a fee for this training. They also noted that, as the Academy is not certified to provide instruction in first aid, an outside organization would be required to teach this part of the program. The cost for this would be passed along to participants and may vary depending on

class size. As the number of potential school protection officers is unknown, cost to provide training is undetermined; however, the agency anticipates fee revenues will offset the cost of training.

**State Revenue**

The Law Enforcement Training Council anticipates charging a fee of \$525 per school protection officer, plus that officer's share of the required first aid training. As the number of potential school protection officers is unknown, the associated revenue is undetermined.

**Local Expenditure**

Depending on how this is implemented, local school districts will incur costs associated with training, weapon storage units, and potentially school-issued weapons. Districts may also incur additional costs associated with screening applicants. These increased expenditures will vary by school and district depending on the number of individuals seeking the designation. Per Section 59-66-320, local funds must be used for these expenditures.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director