

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 907

**PRINTER NO.** 1291

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

September 7, 2023

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Regan

**DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill 907 amends Article XXX-B (School Safety and Security) and Article XIII-C (School Security) of the Public School Code to require that school entities have at least one full-time armed school security person on duty during the school day beginning within the 2024-2025 school year.

For the purpose of this provision, a school entity is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school or private residential rehabilitative institution.

The legislation authorizes the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to establish criteria for granting waivers to school entities from meeting the requirements for armed school security personnel, which shall at a minimum include documentation that the school entity does not have a municipal police department or law enforcement agency that is able to provide a school resource officer and it is unable to hire or contract with a school police officer or school security guard.

The legislation provides that a school entity that is unable to fulfill the requirements to provide armed school security personnel may apply for a waiver from PCCD's School Safety and Security Committee (committee). It provides that the committee may waive the requirements for a school entity that attests that it has acted in good faith to provide armed school security personnel but is unable to meet the requirement.

The legislation provides that the governing body of a school entity may decide to have armed school security personnel on duty during extracurricular activities that occur outside of the school day.

The legislation provides that money allocated to the School Safety and Security Fund for the School Safety and Security Grant Program may be used by school entities to meet the requirement to provide armed school security personnel.

The legislation provides for a school safety coordinator to annually make a report to the school entity's board of directors about the school entity's current school security personnel at an executive session that is to be submitted to the committee. It requires the report to include: the number of school security personnel defined by type; the number of school police officers, school resource officers and school security

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guards that are armed; the building at which each school security person is assigned; training and dates completed; and a listing of other individuals utilized for school safety-related duties.

The legislation defines the term "school day" as the hours between the morning opening of a school building and the afternoon dismissal of students on a day which classes are in session.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

According to the Department of Education, school entities presently employ 2,133 full-time equivalent school security personnel and 3,003 contracted part-time school security personnel to which the department cannot attribute a full-time equivalency number.

Considering the current complement of security personnel employed by school entities, it is likely that many of the 773 school entities already meet the requirements contained in Senate Bill 907 and have at least one full-time armed school security person on duty during the school day.

To the extent that a school entity does not meet the requirements in the legislation, it will need to employ additional armed school security personnel. The cost to employ an armed security person is estimated to be \$115,000 annually considering salary, benefits, equipment and training costs.

The Commonwealth will also incur costs to provide reimbursement for the Commonwealth's share of school employees' retirement costs and school employees' social security costs for armed school security personnel hired by school entities to comply with the legislation, which will defray school entities' costs. Assuming the average annual salary for an armed school security person is \$60,000, the Commonwealth's share of school employees' retirement costs and school employees' social security costs is estimated to be \$16,200 per armed school security person.