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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/18

SPONSOR Munoz LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Public School Security Measures SB 124

ANALYST Liu

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
	\$60,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 130, SM 8

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA)
 Public School Insurance Authority (PSIA)
 Regional Education Cooperatives Association (RECA)

No Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 124 makes a \$60 million recurring general fund appropriation to PED each year to train school personnel on how to respond to an armed threat or attack, contract or employ security personnel, and install security cameras and metal detectors on school premises.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill makes four general fund appropriations of \$15 million for the following purposes:

- Training school personnel on how to respond to an armed threat or attack;
- Contracting or employing appropriately trained personnel to provide security;
- Purchasing, installing, and maintaining security cameras; and
- Purchasing, installing, and maintaining metal detectors on school premises.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining will not revert to the general fund.

Data provided by PSFA identified 27 school district-funded security projects between 2006 and 2018 totaling about \$21 million; however, these projects were not limited to security only. Projects included parking and security lighting, fencing, building additions, renovations to entrances, security vestibules, interior renovations, and other security features. Some projects only included security features as a partial component, so estimates include non-security features.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PSIA provides free training to member school districts and charters on the topics of active shooter, situational awareness, crisis intervention, de-escalation, as well as auditing school security measures. The appropriation of funds outlined in this bill to improve school personnels' access to training on the topic of armed threats would complement the existing trainings provided by PSIA. PSIA notes that additional training for school personnel on the matter of armed threats or attacks on school premises (as well as financial support for school safety and security measures) would likely help to mitigate risks or damages of future incidents and minimize that agency's liability regarding any claims.

School security measures have increased throughout the country due to the increased incidence of violence at schools, such as school shootings. According to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, a federally funded program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, reported in 2017 that annual active shooter incidents have increase over the past 15 years, from one incident in 2000 to 20 in 2015. Additionally, the number of people killed or injured annually in active shooter incidents has increased, from seven in 2000 to 134 in 2015. In that period, 45 active shooter incidents were on school property (23 percent), second only to 88 incidents in places of commerce (44 percent).

The most recent New Mexico school shooting happened on December 7, 2017, in the Aztec school district, which resulted in the death of two students and the suicide of the shooter. On January 14, 2014, a school shooting happened in the Roswell school district, which resulted in two students being wounded before a teacher talked the shooter into conceding the gun.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

RECA notes PED may need to develop rules and processes for allocating funds to the specified purposes provided in this bill.

RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to House Bill 130, which proposes to earmark \$5 million of the public school capital outlay fund between FY19 and FY23 for school security project awards, and Senate Memorial 8, which requests a study on suicide rates by firearms and gun violence in schools. The FY19 executive budget recommendation includes a request for approximately \$6 million in public school capital outlay for security systems in public schools.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

PSIA notes the bill should include definitions of “appropriately trained personnel,” or otherwise reference existing state regulations for security personnel in order to ensure all school security personnel are held to a uniform standard of training and safety. PSIA further notes that schools have differing security needs, and recommends allowing for individual districts and charters to choose from a wider array of security measures best suited to address the most pressing security concerns, including but not limited to; ballistic glass, fencing, or improved locking mechanisms on doors and entrances. Additionally, the open layout of many schools may reduce the effectiveness of metal detectors as a security measure.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Washington Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) published a report examining the funding for safety and security in schools across the nation, finding that many schools allocate some funds for school security, but few include school security in their funding formulas. Thirty-eight states have funding sources dedicated to safety or can be used for school safety if needed. Five states include school safety and security in their education funding formulas, with large variation in their allocations of dollars per pupil; Washington state has the lowest allocation, at \$12 per pupil and New Jersey has the highest allocation at \$143 per pupil.

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