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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office

S.B. 147
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 147's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The Department of Public Safety will incur additional operating expenses, likely in the millions of dollars annually, to create and staff the required Ohio School Marshal Program. The bill does not appropriate any funding for this purpose. It is unclear as to what extent the Department's existing resources, staff, and funding would be, or could be, reallocated to pay for the program's annual operating expenses.
- Administrative costs for school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and other public educational facilities may increase to update emergency management plans and conduct additional emergency management tests.

Detailed Analysis

The bill creates the Ohio School Marshal Program within the Department of Public Safety to provide services to public and nonpublic schools and institutions of higher education regarding school and campus safety and security, and requires the Director of Public Safety to appoint a Chief School Marshal, who meets specified criteria, to administer the program. Additionally, the bill requires the Chief School Marshal to select 16 regional school marshals in consultation with the Director, who will provide school and campus safety and security services to their respective regions, as defined by the bill. The bill also updates the content of school building emergency management plans required under current law and requires additional emergency management tests.

Department of Public Safety

Under the bill, the Department of Public Safety will incur additional costs to create a new division that includes a senior leader, 16 regional staff, and administrative support. The exact costs are uncertain, as salaries and other program-related costs have not been determined. Given the specific eligibility requirements (that an individual be either a licensed

peace officer or a veteran of the United States armed forces in certain standing), salary costs and fringe benefits for the Chief School Marshal and 16 regional school marshals are likely to total in the several millions of dollars. Other potential costs incurred by the Department may include the salaries and fringe benefits of any administrative staff hired, physical office space, transportation-related costs in the form of mileage reimbursement or provision of a state vehicle, and the cost of potentially having to contract with other entities to develop and implement the bill's required training opportunities.

The bill does not appropriate any funding for this purpose. As such, it is unclear as to what extent the Department's existing resources, staff, and funding would be, or could be, reallocated to pay for the program's annual operating expenses.

School emergency management plans and tests

Administrative costs for school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and other public educational facilities may increase to implement the bill's changes to the development and operation of school emergency management plans required under continuing law. Under the bill, administrators must include plans for the following in their emergency response protocol:

- implementing mobile communications;
- mobile accountability; and
- mobile reunification.

These updates may result in one-time administrative costs to the extent that current emergency management plans do not already include these items. However, the bill requires a regional school marshal to assist administrators in their region with the development or review of an emergency management plan. This could mitigate the costs of compliance for school districts and other public schools. Additionally, existing resources such as Safer Schools Ohio¹ exist to assist schools with holistic approaches to improving school safety. Safer Schools Ohio is housed within Ohio Homeland Security and provides resources, guidelines, trainings, and model safety plans for pre-K to 12 schools and colleges and universities.

The bill also modifies requirements associated with emergency management tests. Under the bill, an administrator must conduct the tests quarterly, rather than annually, as under current law. Additionally, the bill requires administrators to file a defined mission statement with the regional school marshal and an after-action report upon completion of the emergency management test (administrative rule already requires administrators to file an after-action report with the Ohio Department of Education within 30 days after a test). The additional tests and required documentation will increase the administrative workload of district and school personnel and potentially increase administrative costs, likely no more than minimally, depending on the types of tests that are conducted more frequently under the bill.

Current administrative rules require the type of test to be either a tabletop, functional, or full-scale exercise, each type being used once every three years. According to Safer Schools

¹ Safer Schools Ohio <https://saferschools.ohio.gov/>.

Ohio, a tabletop exercise is the most basic test, usually occurring in an informal setting where various issues are discussed in a hypothetical, simulated emergency. Functional exercises exhibit how a plan for a specific scenario works in a simulated setting. Fire, tornado, lockdown, and rapid dismissal drills are all examples of functional exercises. Full-scale exercises are the most complex and comprehensive, potentially involving first responders, local officials, and community organizations, and multiple elements of a plan, including emergency notification, evacuation, family reunification, or lockdown procedures, among others. According to the U.S. Department of Education, such exercises can take six to eight months to plan. They may also involve some cost. For example, props or other materials may be used to simulate injuries or damage to facilities. Due to their complexity and planning and coordination requirements, it may be that full-scale exercises are conducted the least frequently among the three exercise types.