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S.B. 168
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for providing services regarding school and campus safety and security to primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education and appropriates \$6 million GRF in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for related program costs.
- Administrative costs for school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and other public educational entities may increase to update emergency management plans and conduct additional emergency management tests.
- The Office of the Attorney General and affiliated Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission will incur minimal one-time and ongoing costs to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under the bill.

Detailed Analysis

The bill (1) establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS), (2) makes changes to the development and implementation of comprehensive school emergency management plans, (3) creates the position of a "school safety designee," who is an individual authorized to carry firearms in a school safety zone, and (4) requires the Attorney General to adopt rules governing firearms qualification and requalification training that must be completed by Ohio Mobile Training Team officers and school safety designees.

Ohio Mobile Training Team Program

The bill establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program within DPS for providing services regarding school and campus safety and security to primary and secondary schools and

institutions of higher education and appropriates \$6 million GRF in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for related program costs. The program staff is to consist of a Chief Mobile Training Officer and 16 regional mobile training officers. The training officers are required each year to successfully complete a firearms requalification program approved by the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. The bill permits the Chief Mobile Training Officer and each regional mobile training officer to appoint and maintain necessary staff and to enter into any necessary agreements.

The duties of a regional mobile training officer include assisting administrators of public and nonpublic school districts as well as state and private institutions of higher learning with emergency management plans; security protocols; strategic communication between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in emergencies; and overseeing and offering training opportunities, including firearms training and quarterly recertification. The bill requires regional mobile training officers to seek certification from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to provide firearms training to school safety designees or to refer school safety designees to a certified instructor for the training. The bill also provides arrest authority for the Chief Mobile Training Officer and each regional mobile training officer during the performance of official duties.

Emergency management plans

Administrative costs for school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and other public educational entities 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.

Administrators also must file a copy of the emergency management plan with the regional mobile training officer if requested. 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 permits school administrators to involve their regional mobile training officer in 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 mobile training officer and an after-action report upon completion of the emergency management test (administrative rule already requires administrators to file an after-action

¹ Safer Schools Ohio <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/osscc/>.

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 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, 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.

School safety designees

The bill also creates the position of school safety designee, which it defines as either a school resource officer, a person employed as a security officer, or any other person authorized to go armed in a school safety zone. School safety designees who are not school resource officers must complete basic firearms training provided by a regional mobile training officer or another instructor certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission in order to be appointed. The bill also requires any school safety designee to undergo quarterly firearms requalification training approved by the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission in order to continue in the role. Schools are not required to appoint a school safety designee. For those that do, trainings required under the bill are provided by the Ohio Mobile Team Training Program at no cost to schools. The bill also specifies that no school safety designee may carry a concealed firearm while serving in that capacity unless the individual has a concealed carry license. Presumably, most school safety designees will have a concealed carry license, but if not, certification classes generally cost approximately \$100 to \$130.

Firearms qualification and requalification training

There will be minimal one-time and ongoing costs for the Office of the Attorney General, and affiliated Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to:

- Adopt rules governing firearms qualification and requalification training programs that must be completed by the officers of the Ohio Mobile Training Team and school safety designees;
- Approve firearms requalification training programs for officers of the Ohio Mobile Training Team;
- Certify instructors for training programs provided to regional mobile training officers for their certification as qualified instructors for basic firearms training and requalification training programs; and

- Certify regional mobile training officers as qualified instructors for the basic firearms training and requalification training programs for school safety designees.