



[HF 2586](#) – School Safety and Security (LSB6276HV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by the House

Description

[House File 2586](#) creates new provisions related to school security. The Bill establishes the School Security Personnel Grant Program, to be administered by the Department of Education (DE). The Bill requires school districts with 8,000 or more students to employ a private school security officer (PSSO) or school resource officer (SRO) at each attendance center where students in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 regularly attend classes. The Bill also authorizes school employees to be issued professional permits to carry firearms on school property. The Bill further requires PSSOs and school employees who are licensed to carry a firearm on school property under this Bill to participate in annual live scenario training and quarterly live firearms training provided by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Background

Currently, school districts are not required to employ a PSSO or SRO. School districts that employ an SRO typically have agreements to split costs with local cities and/or counties. The details of these agreements vary, but on average, districts pay 58.8% of the cost. Total costs for an SRO, prior to being split with local authorities, generally range from \$95,000 to \$115,000, including salary, benefits, and equipment.

Iowa Code section [724.4B](#) allows school districts to authorize individuals to carry weapons on school district grounds. However, no school currently authorizes employees to carry firearms on campus. Current law does not require specific permits or training for a district to authorize an individual to carry weapons.

In Ohio, where a similar program has been implemented, 61 school systems have armed staff. The State of Ohio's population is slightly less than three times as large as Iowa's and has roughly double the number of school districts. The State of Ohio employs approximately 20 instructors to train individuals at the 61 school systems.

Assumptions

- There are 344 qualifying attendance centers across the State where students enrolled in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 regularly attend class.
- Each school district will apply to the program and will spend \$50,000 or more in matching funds for the employment of PSSOs or SROs at qualifying attendance centers.
- There are 11 school districts with 8,000 or more students that would be required to employ at least one PSSO or SRO at qualified attendance centers.
- The average cost to school districts for employing an SRO, after sharing costs with local cities or counties, is estimated at \$63,000.
- The number of school districts currently employing SROs is unknown, and the number of districts that may apply under the grant program is unknown.
- The DPS will need to hire 2.0 new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for Firearm Instructors to host the required live training sessions for PSSOs under this Bill. The projected cost of these positions is \$150,000.

- Assuming the number of school districts that may use this program will be similar to Ohio, the DPS estimates that approximately 35 school districts may choose to authorize school employees to be issued professional permits.
- Based on the ratio of instructors to school districts in Ohio, the DPS will need to hire 6.0 new FTE positions to host the required live training sessions for school employees who have been authorized to receive professional permits under this Bill. This includes 5.0 FTE positions for Firearms Instructors, who will provide the required training, and 1.0 FTE position for Support Staff, who will provide administrative support for the program. The cost for these positions is estimated to be approximately \$450,000.
- The DPS will need to develop a new record management system that is responsible for issuing permits and tracking training requirements. The cost for a record management system will depend on how the professional permit program is organized and operated.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact to the State to fully fund the School Security Personnel Grant Program is estimated to require \$17.2 million per year. However, the number of school districts that will apply for the matching grant is unknown. The Bill also creates the School Security Personnel Grant Program Fund administered by the DE. Any remaining funds will remain available for expenditure for the Grant Program and are permitted to carry forward for subsequent fiscal years.

The fiscal impact to the DPS is estimated to be \$600,000 and 8.0 new FTE positions to support the training for PSSOs and school employees who have been authorized to receive professional permits. The DPS would also need to develop and implement a new record management system. The cost of this system will depend on how the professional permit program is implemented and cannot be determined at this time.

The fiscal impact to school districts with 8,000 or more students and qualified attendance centers is unknown due to a lack of information regarding which school districts currently employ SROs. There are 11 school districts with 8,000 or more students, among which there are 40 qualified attendance centers that will be required to employ at least one PSSO or SRO. The maximum estimated cost to comply with this requirement is approximately \$2.5 million across all 11 eligible districts. Districts in full compliance will not see additional costs and may see savings if that district receives grants from the DE.

Figure 1 — Maximum School Security Compliance Cost for Districts with 8,000+ Students

| Districts With 8,000+ Students | Qualifying Attendance Centers | Cost |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ankeny Comm School District | 4 | \$ 252,000 |
| Cedar Rapids Comm School District | 5 | 315,000 |
| Council Bluffs Comm School District | 2 | 126,000 |
| Davenport Comm School District | 4 | 252,000 |
| Des Moines Independent Comm School District | 6 | 378,000 |
| Dubuque Comm School District | 2 | 126,000 |
| Iowa City Comm School District | 4 | 252,000 |
| Sioux City Comm School District | 3 | 189,000 |
| Waterloo Comm School District | 3 | 189,000 |
| Waukee Comm School District | 4 | 252,000 |
| West Des Moines Comm School District | 3 | 189,000 |
| Maximum Compliance Cost to School Districts | | <u>\$2,520,000</u> |

Sources

Iowa Association of School Boards
 Department of Education
 Department of Public Safety
 Legislative Services Agency

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.