

School Safety Plans and Improvements, Appropriations Bill House File 2652

Last Action:
House Appropriations
Committee
March 8, 2024

Executive Summary Only

An Act relating to school security, including by modifying provisions related to the issuance of school bonds, requiring schools to conduct school safety reviews and have access to a Public Safety Answering Point, establishing the Firearm Detection Software Grant Program within the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, requiring the Department of Public Safety to convene a Task Force related to the safety and security standards of schools and school infrastructure, making appropriations, and including effective date and applicability provisions.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS, APPROPRIATIONS BILL

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Appropriates \$350,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) for a Firearm Detection Software Grant Program for FY 2024. Any funds remaining at the close of the fiscal year will remain available for expenditure through FY 2025.

Page 4, Line 19

Appropriates \$3.0 million from the 911 Emergency Communication Fund to the HSEMD for grants for school security infrastructure, equipment, and training for FY 2025. This appropriation is contingent upon the passage of [HF 2586](#), School Safety and Security Bill, or successor legislation.

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STUDIES AND INTENT

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), in collaboration with the Department of Education (DE) and the HSEMD, will convene and provide administrative support for a Task Force to study and make recommendations related to safety and security standards of schools and school infrastructure, including safety and security standards related to doors, windows, cameras, and locks. The Bill outlines the composition of the 11 members of the School Safety and Security Infrastructure Standards Task Force.

Page 4, Line 32

The Task Force established in Section 6 of the Bill is required to submit findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2024.

Page 6, Line 13

SIGNIFICANT CODE CHANGES

Allows a school district to purchase, install, and operate a mobile panic alert system if certain criteria are met.

Page 1, Line 1

Prohibits the issuance of new negotiable, interest-bearing school board bonds for the purposes of new construction or renovation unless all institutions under the school board are in compliance with this Bill.

Page 1, Line 12

Requires each school to complete a comprehensive review and evaluation of the school's plan for responses to active shooter scenarios and natural disasters. The schools will submit the completed evaluation on or before the first day of the school calendar for the July 1, 2024, school year to the DPS's School Safety Bureau, local county and city police forces, and the local district office of the Iowa State Patrol.

Page 1, Line 27

Each institution of learning under this Bill is required to have at least one handheld or console radio that is capable of accessing a public safety answering point, at each attendance center, on or before the first day of the school calendar for the school year beginning July 1, 2025.

Page 2, Line 24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS AND IMPROVEMENTS, APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Requires the HSEMD to establish a Firearm Detection Software Pilot Program to provide grants and assist with the purchasing, installing, and operating of firearm detection software. The HSEMD is required to provide at least one grant under this program to school districts. Moneys awarded under Section 5 of the Bill will supplement, not supplant, existing public funding for similar purposes. Any software funded through this program must meet all the following requirements:

Page 2, Line 34

- Is designed to detect and alert school district employees and first responders if there is a visible, unholstered firearm on school property.
- Is designated as a qualified anti-terrorism technology by the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- Is designed to integrate with the school districts' existing security camera infrastructure.
- Was developed in the United States without the use of any third-party data or open-source data.

If House File 2586, School Safety and Security Bill, or successor legislation is enacted, the Bill requires the HSEMD to establish a grant program to provide grants to applicable school districts for FY 2025. The grants are not to exceed \$25,000 each, and may be used by the school districts for any of the following:

Page 6, Line 21

- Purchase infrastructure and equipment related to employee permits to carry weapons on school property.
- Facilitate the training associated with employee permits to carry weapons.
- Provide stipends to employees who participate in the training associated with employee permits to carry weapons

Authorizes the HSEMD to adopt emergency rules under Iowa Code section [17A.4](#).

Page 7, Line 29

The Bill requires the cost of any State mandate required in the Bill to be paid from State Foundation School Aid received by a school district under Iowa Code section [257.16](#).

Page 8, Line 4

Section 2 of the Bill applies to projects approved by school boards and school bonds authorized by voters at an election held after July 1, 2024.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

This Bill takes effect upon enactment.

Page 8, Line 15

Justice System

General Fund

	<u>Supp-House Appr</u> <u>FY 2024</u>
	<u>(1)</u>
<u>Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt</u>	
Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt	
Firearm Detection Software Grant Program	\$ 350,000
Total Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt	\$ 350,000
Total Justice System	<u>\$ 350,000</u>

Justice System

Other Funds

	Actual FY 2023 <u>(1)</u>	Estimated FY 2024 <u>(2)</u>	House Approp FY 2025 <u>(3)</u>	Hse Appr FY25 vs Est FY 2024 <u>(4)</u>
<u>Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt</u>				
Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt				
School Security Personnel Grants - E911	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Total Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Total Justice System	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>