

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 613

(Delegate Griffith, *et al.*)

Appropriations

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**Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase**

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This bill increases, from \$10.0 million to \$20.0 million beginning in fiscal 2024, the mandated appropriation for grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools, including the assignment of school resource officers (SROs) in public schools. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** No effect in FY 2023. General fund expenditures increase by \$10.0 million in FY 2024 for the Safe Schools Fund to make grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies. Special fund revenues and expenditures increase commensurately. The Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) can implement the bill with existing resources. No effect on revenues. **This bill increases a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2024.**

| (in dollars)   | FY 2023 | FY 2024        | FY 2025        | FY 2026        | FY 2027        |
|----------------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SF Revenue     | \$0     | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   |
| GF Expenditure | \$0     | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   |
| SF Expenditure | \$0     | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   | \$10,000,000   |
| Net Effect     | \$0     | (\$10,000,000) | (\$10,000,000) | (\$10,000,000) | (\$10,000,000) |

*Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Local revenues for school systems and law enforcement agencies increase by a total \$10.0 million across all 24 counties (including Baltimore City). The revenues supplant local funds being used for school safety, but otherwise the bill does not affect total local expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** A “school resource officer” is defined as:

- a law enforcement officer who has been assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief law enforcement agency and local school system; or
- a Baltimore City school police officer.

### *Maryland Safe to Learn Act*

Chapter 30 of 2018 (the Maryland Safe to Learn Act) required, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, each local school system to file annually a report with MCSS that identifies (1) the public schools that have an SRO assigned and (2) if no SRO is assigned to a public school, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school. MCSS must submit annual summaries of the SRO/law enforcement coverage reports it receives to the Governor and the General Assembly. MCSS must also collect and report annually data on specified incidents of use of force involving SROs or school security employees.

Chapter 30 also created the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems to enhance school safety. Beginning in fiscal 2020 and each year thereafter, the Governor must include \$10.0 million for the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to meet the SRO/law enforcement coverage requirements. Grants must be allocated based on the proportion of public schools in each jurisdiction.

**Local Revenues:** Based on the fiscal 2022 allocation of grant funds to each local school system (according to their share of total school buildings in the State), **Exhibit 1** shows the expected distribution of the additional \$10 million in grant funds for local school systems or law enforcement agencies, beginning in fiscal 2024. Grants may be made to either local school systems or local law enforcement agencies.

Current grant funding does not cover the full cost of providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools (including the placement of SROs in some schools). Therefore, the bill has no effect on total local spending, but the additional grant funding from the State supplants local funds being used for this purpose.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Estimated Additional Annual Grant Allocation by County**  
**Beginning FY 2024**

| <b><u>Local School System</u></b> | <b><u>Allocation</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Allegany                          | \$155,148                |
| Anne Arundel                      | 853,315                  |
| Baltimore City                    | 1,184,767                |
| Baltimore                         | 1,234,133                |
| Calvert                           | 176,305                  |
| Caroline                          | 70,522                   |
| Carroll                           | 282,087                  |
| Cecil                             | 211,566                  |
| Charles                           | 275,035                  |
| Dorchester                        | 98,731                   |
| Frederick                         | 493,653                  |
| Garrett                           | 84,626                   |
| Harford                           | 380,818                  |
| Howard                            | 543,018                  |
| Kent                              | 35,261                   |
| Montgomery                        | 1,466,855                |
| Prince George's                   | 1,431,594                |
| Queen Anne's                      | 98,731                   |
| Somerset                          | 63,470                   |
| St. Mary's                        | 211,566                  |
| Talbot                            | 56,417                   |
| Washington                        | 310,296                  |
| Wicomico                          | 183,357                  |
| Worcester                         | 98,731                   |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$10,000,000</b>      |

Note: Column does not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of Legislative Services

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2022

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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510