

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB592

Patron: Simonds

Bill Title: Public schools; wearable panic alarm systems; grant program.

Bill Summary: Permits any school board to provide any school board employee in a public elementary and secondary school building in the local school division with a wearable panic alarm system, defined in the bill as a security system that is capable of being worn on the body of the user and by which the user manually activates a device that sends (i) a signal to the local 9-1-1 public safety answering point that indicates a school security emergency that requires immediate response and assistance from such public safety answering point and (ii) a multisensory schoolwide school security emergency notification, when appropriate. The bill requires, with such funds as may be provided for such purpose pursuant to the general appropriation act, the Department of Education to establish and administer a grant program whereby school divisions with demonstrated need apply for a grant on a competitive basis to cover or defer the cost of providing such a system.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: 123, 124

Explanation: The bill establishes a grant program with such funds as may be appropriated; therefore a budget amendment is only necessary if funding is provided. If funded, the Department of Education anticipates the need for one time funding to establish the program. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: Any funding provided for grants is indeterminate. The Department of Education estimates a one time cost of \$57,250 general fund to initially establish the program if it is funded.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
197 (Direct Aid)	\$0	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$57,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate	indeterminate

Fiscal Analysis: The bill allows local school divisions to provide employees with wearable panic alarms and establishes that with such funds as may be provided in the appropriation act the Department of Education (DOE) establish and administer a grant program to cover or defer the cost of providing wearable panic alarms. Any actual impact for grant awards would depend on the amount appropriated. DOE anticipates that if a grant program is funded, additional one time support would be required for wage and contract staff to develop criteria and guidelines and support adding this grant to the IT system. DOE estimates a one time cost of \$57,250 general fund in the year the program is funded.

Any cost to local school divisions for wearable panic alarms is indeterminate.

Other: None