

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB440

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Durant

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Employment of school protection officers in public schools.

5. **Summary:** Permits any local law-enforcement agency to employ in any public elementary or secondary school in the local school division, pursuant to an agreement with the local school board, a school protection officer, defined in the bill as a retired law-enforcement officer hired by the local law-enforcement agency on a part-time basis to provide limited law-enforcement and security services to public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth. The bill requires each such school board and local law-enforcement agency to enter into a memorandum of understanding that sets forth the powers and duties of school protection officers. The bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish compulsory training standards for school protection officers and requires the collection of certain data relating to the activities of such officers.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 391.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed bill creates a new third category of school safety personnel, the School Protection Officer (SPO), in addition to the existing School Security Officers (SSOs) and School Resource Officers (SROs). This bill requires DCJS to develop new compulsory minimum training standards for SPOs, and to provide training throughout the Commonwealth. The scope of appropriate compulsory minimum training standards depends on the definition of “limited law enforcement and security services” stated in the bill. It would also require DCJS to create a certification and recertification process. This creates a new job function for the DCJS Law Enforcement Division to monitor, track, and manage the training of such officers, and creates a mandate for new statewide training delivery.

To meet the requirements of this bill, DCJS estimates that it would need one FTE program manager with an annual salary of \$116,000 (including benefits). DCJS reports that it will contract with consultants and subject matter experts to develop compulsory minimum training and recertification standards and the associated curriculum. DCJS anticipates a one-time cost of \$125,000 for consultants/subject matter experts. In addition, DCJS would need to add a module to the current training tracking system. DCJS estimates a one-time cost of \$100,000 for the tracking system enhancement.

Any fiscal impact to local school divisions and law enforcement agencies is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services, local school divisions, state and local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: Define “limited law enforcement and security service.”

11. Other Comments: None.