



**Legislative  
Council Staff**

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# FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 20-0392  
**Prime Sponsors:**

**Date:** October 28, 2019  
**Bill Status:** Bill Request  
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**Bill Topic:** **FUNDING SCHOOL ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM**

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill increases the amount transferred from the State Public School Fund to the School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER) Cash Fund by \$5.0 million per year, resulting in a total annual transfer of \$10.0 million to the SAFER Cash Fund. The bill increases state transfers and expenditures through FY 2023-24.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$5.0 million from the SAFER Cash Fund to the Department of Public Safety.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the draft bill requested by the Safe Schools Committee.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 6**

		<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-22</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>		-	-
<b>Transfers</b>	Cash Funds	(\$5.0 million)	(\$5.0 million)
	Cash Funds	\$5.0 million	\$5.0 million
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-

## **Summary of Legislation**

From FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24 the bill transfers \$10 million annually from the Public School Fund to the School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program Cash Fund (SAFER) cash fund. Under current law, the annual transfer is \$5.0 million per year through FY 2023-24.

## **Background**

Senate Bill 18-158 created the SAFER Grant Program in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The program provides funding to schools and public safety communications networks for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance, and training. Under current law, the state treasurer is required to annually transfer \$5.0 million from the State Public School Fund to the SAFER Cash Fund through FY 2023-24. The grant program is repealed July 1, 2024.

The Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) is a statewide two-way radio system for voice communications. In Colorado, about 1,000 local, state, and federal government agencies use the system in emergency situations to improve interagency cooperation and coordination. The system processes about 103 million transmissions a year. The infrastructure of the DTRS — including equipment, software, and radio towers — allows operators to communicate with and facilitate communication between first responders. An agency may opt to use the DTRS as its primary radio system or for interoperability only, especially during first responder situations. The DTRS is managed by the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT).

## **State Transfers**

Starting July 1, 2020 (FY 2020-21), and each July 1 through 2023 (FY 2023-24), the bill increases the annual transfer from the Public School Fund to the SAFER Cash Fund by \$5.0 million. This will result in a transfer of \$10.0 million per year.

## **State Expenditures**

While the bill does not increase net expenditures, it will shift spending on general education purposes from the Public School Fund to the SAFER Grant Program in the Department of Public Safety. It may also impact costs and workload in OIT. These impacts are discussed below.

**Department of Public Safety.** The bill increases cash fund expenditures in the DPS by up to \$5.0 million per year through FY 2023-24. Current law authorizes DPS to use up to 3 percent of the money annually appropriated for the grant program for administrative expenses. If the General Assembly chooses to appropriate the full amount of the increased annual transfer (\$5.0 million) to the DPS, up to \$150,000 may be used by DPS to pay the direct and indirect costs of administering additional grants under the program.

**Office of Information Technology.** The bill may increase workload and costs in OIT to work with schools to assess need and provide a solution to improve interoperable communication technology. Some parts of the DTRS are at or near capacity. If grants are made in regions of the state where the DTRS is at capacity, there will be costs associated with adding transmitters, licenses, software, and hardware. These costs are indeterminate. These cost may be included in grant awards or requested through the regular budget process in future years.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State Appropriations**

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$5.0 million from the SAFER Cash Fund to the DPS.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Information Technology

Public Safety