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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 24-0509 Date: February 21, 2024
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Bradley Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SAFETY FIREARM DETECTION SYSTEMS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:
State Revenue [] State Transfer [] Local Government []
State Expenditure [x] TABOR Refund [] School District [x]

The bill creates a program in the Department of Public Safety to disburse funding to public schools to install and operate firearm detection software. It increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of about \$2.8 million to the Department of Public safety.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 24-1123

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2024-25, and Out Year FY 2025-26. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the School Safety Firearm Detection Funding Program in the Office of School Safety in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to disburse money to local education providers (LEPs) to obtain firearm detection software for use in schools. The DPS must create rules for an application process, timelines, and reporting. The DPS must review applications and disburse program money in the order applications are received until any appropriation is fully expended.

Disbursements must be used to purchase and operate software for one year, or if the LEP already uses firearm detection software, an applicant may request a disbursement to operate the software. The bill specifies that eligible software must be operated directly by the seller of the software using a constantly monitored operations center, among other requirements.

An LEP that receives a disbursement must report specified information back to DPS, and the Office of School Safety must include information collected from recipients in reports made to the relevant committees of the General Assembly.

Assumptions

Funding for the firearm detection program is not specified in the bill. For the purposes of estimating an impact, this fiscal note assumes the program will fund up to approximately 10 school districts made up of small, medium sized, and large districts in different geographic areas. The General Assembly could choose to provide more funding and disburse program money to more schools and districts. Increasing the total amount of funding also increases the administrative effort in the DPS.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the DPS by about \$2.8 million in FY 2024-25 and \$2.7 million in FY 2025-26, paid from the General Fund. State expenditures are displayed in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 24-1123

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Department of Public Safety		
Personal Services	\$76,994	\$38,497
Operating Expenses	\$1,280	\$640
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	-
Disbursements for Firearm Detection Software	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$18,719	\$9,359
Total Cost	\$2,810,333	\$2,748,496
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	0.5 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Public Safety. The DPS will have increased costs to administer the new program and disburse funding to LEPs.

- **Disbursements for detection software.** This fiscal note estimates that about \$2.7 million annually can provide funding for up to 10 school districts of varying size. This includes a one-time installation fee per school, software, licensing, and monitoring. Based on initial cost estimates from qualified vendors, and an assumption of about 500 cameras for large districts, 300 cameras per medium district, and 100 cameras per small school district, funding the program at \$2.7 million will disburse funding to districts of varying size and geographic locations. Putting additional funding into the program will allow the DPS to expand awards and disburse funding to more schools and districts.
- **Staff.** For FY 2024-25, expenditures increase for 1.0 FTE program manager to create rules, identify qualified vendors, provide technical assistance to applicants, verify application contents, disburse funds, and collect year end data from LEPs to include in legislative reports. This effort reduces in FY 2025-26 to 0.5 FTE grants specialist to maintain program operations and assist new applicants and grantees.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

School District

LEPs, including school districts, can apply for funding from the program and the DPS will award funds to applicants in the order in which they were received. Districts that receive funding will have increased workload to coordinate with the vendor for the installation, operation, and licensing of all software and detection services. Districts will have ongoing expenses if they choose to continue operating the detection system after grant funding ends.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$2,791,614 to the Colorado Department of Public Safety, and 1.0 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Safety

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).