

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 59

Special Session:

Patron: McGuire

Date: 1/11/2022

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

School principals; incident reports. Requires that school principals report to law enforcement certain enumerated acts that may constitute a misdemeanor offense and report to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act that the incident has been reported to law enforcement. Under current law, principals are required to make such reports only for such acts that may constitute a felony offense.

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### Executive Summary:

Localities reported a negative fiscal impact of \$0 - \$0.25 million from the bill's provisions.

Most localities reported that the bill would produce a small, if any, fiscal impact as existing administrative operations could assume the costs of the bill. Some reported a fiscal impact equal to the cost of additional staff if the bill's requirements necessitated the need for additional administrative assistance.

Furthermore, some localities indicated a possible indeterminant negative fiscal impact associated with potential increases in workload for the local police department, stemming from reports of misdemeanors necessitating investigation.

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### Local Analysis:

**Locality:** City of Alexandria..

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

This propose bill requires principals to report misdemeanor offenses to law enforcement and notify the parent that the incident has been reported. Current law only requires this for a felony offense. As currently written, the City believes this is more of an administrative change and any costs could be assumed by current operations.

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Locality: City of Danville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$200,000.00

It is difficult to predict the impact of HB59 without knowing the volume of reports that would occur if enacted. HB59 may lead to the need for additional staff to absorb these responsibilities. DPS currently has two SROs and additional may be needed to comply with the enhanced scope of reporting.

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**Locality:** City of Harrisonburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$75,000.00

We would need to hire additional assistant principals and resource officers to handle the increase in reportable offenses. This would primarily affect staffing in the middle and high schools.

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**Locality:** City of Manassas

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

No fiscal impact.

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**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The financial impact for the school division to report misdemeanor charges would be based on the number of cases, the hourly rate for the principal responsible for reporting these cases, and the time required to report each case. Without the ability to predict the number of cases, the financial impact is uncertain.

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**Locality:** City of Winchester

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

No fiscal impact, but time consuming. Also, this will overturn HB 257 that was effective in July 2020, which states that misdemeanors are eliminated from mandatory reporting by schools. Additionally, our administrators would need to receive training to recognize all misdemeanors the law carries. They would also need to interpret whether a student action is a misdemeanor for reporting purposes.

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**Locality:** County of Bland

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The reporting of certain enumerated acts to law enforcement is not anticipated to add any significant additional costs financially. There may be additional costs associated with the cases processing through the courts. However, in Bland County, it is not anticipated that those costs would be significant.

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**Locality:** Hanover County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The Hanover County School Division has indicated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact.

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**Locality:** Nottoway County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$10,000.00

I see this from the standpoint of hours of research/recovery on the part of the Law Enforcement Officer/Agency. The said Officer/Agency would perform all of this initial work in order to present to the Commonwealth's Attorney (CA) with no guarantee there will be any forward action on their part.

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**Locality:** Prince William County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

PWC Schools do not anticipate any fiscal impact.

PWC Police Department is unable to determine a fiscal impact at this time. However noted, costs will come in the form of staff hours and equipment usage to investigate crimes that may not have otherwise been reported.

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Locality: Rappahannock County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1,000.00

According to the Rappahannock County Superintendent of Schools, there would likely be a limited financial impact linked to extra professional development costs and possibly higher legal fees if parents contest the process more frequently.

As such, it is also possible the law enforcement costs could increase, but that would not seem to be significant in our community either.

\$1,000 is a symbolically low, but not zero annual value.

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**Locality:** Rockingham County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

There would be no fiscal impact for this requirement.

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Locality: Town of Blacksburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

We are a Town which does not have education responsibilities.

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**Locality:** Town of Chincoteague, Inc

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

No fiscal impact.

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Locality: Town of Leesburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

The Town does not have schools. It is a County function so this does not apply to Leesburg.

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**Locality:** Town of Luray

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$10.00

No fiscal impact

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Locality: Town of Victoria

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Based on the review of the proposed changes and the existing code section I do not see any impact on our locality from this.

