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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 23-0366	Date:	January 13, 2023
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Van Winkle; Kolker Rep. Michaelson Jenet; Catlin	Bill Status:	Senate Education
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Bill Topic: CONTINUE 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts

The bill extends the repeal date of the School Access for Emergency Response Grant program until July 1, 2029. The bill increases state expenditures for five years, from FY 2024-25 through FY 2028-29.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 23-043**

		Budget Year FY 2023-24	Out Year FY 2024-25
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Fund	-	\$5.0 million
	Total Expenditures	-	\$5.0 million
Transfers	General Fund	-	(\$5.0 million)
	Cash Funds	-	\$5.0 million
	Net Transfer	-	\$0
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	-	-

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program will repeal on July 1, 2024. The SAFER program is in the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This bill extends the program for five years, through July 1, 2029 (FY 2028-29).

Background

The SAFER program provides grants to schools and public safety communications system owners for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance, and training to allow for communications between new or existing school systems and emergency and first responder communications systems. The program is administered with 1.0 FTE and historically has distributed about \$4.8 million annually in grants to school districts and local governments.

State Transfers

Under current law, the SAFER program receives an annual transfer of \$5.0 million from the General Fund to the School Access for Emergency Response Grant Program Cash Fund. The fiscal note assumes that this transfer will continue each year through July 1, 2028.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in DPS by \$5.0 million per year, beginning FY 2024-25. Expenditures are from the SAFER Grant Program Cash Fund, and continue until the program's new repeal date on July 1, 2029. This amount represents a continuation of current annual expenditures of \$5.0 million and 1.0 FTE. After administrative costs, the program distributes about \$4.8 million annually in grants to school districts and local governments.

Local Government

Schools, school districts, and local governments will continue to participate in the program and receive grants for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance and training.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Safety