

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1230

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

2. Patron: Zehr

3. Committee: Public Safety

4. Title: Certain school board employees; possession of firearms on school property.

5. Summary: Permits any school board to authorize any school board employee to possess a firearm on school property, in addition to those individuals expressly authorized to possess such a firearm as otherwise provided in statute, provided that any school board employee so authorized by the school board receives advanced firearms training in accordance with criteria established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop and distribute to each local school board such criteria no later than August 1, 2024.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 391.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	0	0	
2025	\$75,000	0	General Fund
2026	0	0	
2027	0	0	
2028	0	0	
2029	0	0	
2030	0	0	

7b. Revenue Impact: None

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would require the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to develop new advanced firearms training program criteria for non-law enforcement school personnel. Typically, DCJS is required to create compulsory minimum training standards for training, not criteria. If “training criteria” meets the same definition or requirement as “training standards,” DCJS would need to work with subject matter experts who possess intricate knowledge of firearms, civilian response to active threats, and school procedures to develop criteria for advanced firearms training for civilians. DCJS would also be responsible for distributing information about such training to each school board in the Commonwealth. DCJS currently has no certification authority over a school employee and does not provide general citizen firearms training criteria or standards.

The new criteria, if the same as training standards, would be subject to the Administrative Process Act (APA); it can take up to 18 months before any regulations can be formally adopted.

DCJS estimates a one-time state cost of \$75,000 in FY 2025 to contract with subject matter experts to assist in developing this training. This bill does not require DCJS to conduct the training. The local school board would be responsible for ensuring their staff receive the training, as well as keeping track of those who have taken the training and have been authorized to possess a firearm on school property. Any fiscal impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services, local school divisions

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None