152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1**
FOR:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 167**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Shupe**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FUNDING.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act creates School Resource Officer (SRO) Units for school districts and charter schools. Units will be allocated based on the following:
    a. One SRO unit for each school in a school district or charter school
    b. An additional SRO unit for every 1,000 students over the first 1,000
    c. A fractional SRO unit for the percentage of students in the school over 1,000 that are insufficient to meet the threshold for an additional SRO unit.

3. This Act expands the definition of a School Resource Officer to include constables. Each unit may be used for a sworn law enforcement officer or constable.

4. Funding for an SRO unit must be shared between state and local funds. The state will pay a maximum of 70% of the annual salary rate and other employment costs. The remaining percentage of the annual salary will be paid by local funds.

5. Per the September 30, 2022, Unit Count, there were approximately 195 schools with under 1,000 students, 25 schools with 1,000-1,999 students, 4 schools with 2,000-2,999 students, and 1 school with over 3,000 students.

6. Upon implementation, this Act will generate an estimated 244.15 units of funding for full-time SROs. Overall units are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

7. The average state unit of funding for a sworn law enforcement officer is estimated to be $112,892, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $40,865. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 32.25%.
    a. Equipment and maintenance costs are assumed at $25,000 annually per sworn law enforcement officer unit. One-time vehicle and equipment costs are assumed to be $110,000 per sworn officer unit. Equipment and maintenance costs are assumed to be fully funded through state funds.

8. The average state unit of funding for a constable is estimated to be $59,355, while the local share of personnel costs is estimated at $17,920. Other employment costs are assumed at a rate of 32.25%.
    a. Equipment and maintenance costs are assumed at $1,000 annually per constable unit. One-time supplies and equipment costs are assumed to be $3,000 per constable unit. Equipment and maintenance costs are assumed to be fully funded through state funds.

9. It is assumed that each school will utilize the allocated positions. Because each Local Education Agency will have the autonomy to determine whether to fill the units with sworn law enforcement officers or constables, there is a range of possible costs.

    a. If all schools choose to utilize constables for the full allowable units, the minimum cost would be as follows:

Constables	State Unit Cost	Local Unit Cost	State One-Time Cost	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2025	$15,030,338	$4,462,640	$14,370	$19,507,348
Fiscal Year 2026	$15,637,375	$4,642,875	$14,640	$20,294,890
Fiscal Year 2027	$16,269,087	$4,830,436	$14,940	$21,114,463

    b. If all schools choose to utilize sworn law enforcement officers for the full allowable units, the maximum cost would be as follows:

Sworn Law Enforcement Officers	State Unit Cost	Local Unit Cost	State One-Time Cost	Total Costs
Fiscal Year 2025	$34,339,721	$10,176,796	$526,900	$45,043,416
Fiscal Year 2026	$35,726,615	$10,587,811	$536,800	$46,851,226
Fiscal Year 2027	$37,169,882	$11,015,532	$547,800	$48,733,215

10. It is assumed that units filled upon implementation of this act will closely mirror the current actual units filled. Approximately 55% of the current positions are filled by constables and approximately 45% of the current positions are filled by sworn law enforcement officers.

11. Overall costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2.0%.

Cost

	State Unit Cost	**Local Unit Cost**	**State One-Time Cost**	**Total Costs**
Fiscal Year 2025:	$23,719,560	$7,034,010	$245,009	$30,998,579
Fiscal Year 2026:	$24,677,533	$7,318,096	$249,612	$32,245,241
Fiscal Year 2027:	$25,674,445	$7,613,729	$254,727	$33,542,901

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