

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1109 Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools

SPONSOR(S): Fine and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1396

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 108 Y's 6 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1109 passed the House on February 22, 2024, and subsequently passed the Senate on March 5, 2024.

Since 2018, the Legislature has appropriated more than \$1 billion in the Safe Schools Allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program to assist school districts in complying with the statutory requirements related to school safety. For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million in nonrecurring funds for security funding at Jewish day schools. During special session in November 2023, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$25 million for security measures at Jewish day schools and \$20 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, while amending such program to include nonprofit schools.

The bill creates s. 1001.2921, F.S., to require the Department of Education, subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, to establish a program to provide funds to secure full-time Jewish day schools and preschools in the state through professional security hardening, as needed.

Based on a risk assessment by law enforcement or a private security company, the bill requires funds to be used for the purchase and installation of security cameras, perimeter lighting, perimeter fencing, and shatter-resistant glass for windows; the hiring of or contracting with security personnel who are licensed and regulated by the state and insured; expenses relating to transportation to minimize security exposure of staff, parents, and students; or other nonhardening security measures, including, but not limited to providing professional detection, prevention, and security services to such schools and preschools.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the bill.

The bill specifies that any security funding for Jewish day schools and preschools is subject to a legislative appropriation. See Fiscal Analysis & Economic Impact Statement.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 24, 2024, ch. 2024-264, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2024.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

School Safety Funding

The Safe School Allocation provides funding to assist school districts in complying with ss. 1006.07-1006.12, F.S., with priority given to safe-school officers.¹ For the 2023-2024 school year, \$250 million was appropriated for the Safe Schools Allocation. Each school district receives a minimum of \$250,000 and the remaining balance of funds is allocated by a formula based one-third on the recent Florida Crime Index and two-thirds based on each school district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment.²

The distribution of these funds is contingent upon the school district's compliance with all reporting procedures related to the prevention of bullying and harassment.³

The Legislature also created the School Hardening Grant Program, which was designed to improve the physical security of school buildings based on a required security risk assessment. Funds were required to be used for capital purchases and are allocated based on each school district's capital outlay Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and charter school FTE, and provided based on district application.⁴ In 2023, all school safety funding for public schools was rolled into the safe schools allocation in order to provide school districts the most flexibility in the use of funds to fulfill the needs of the school district.

Safe Schools Allocation	
Fiscal Year	Funding Amount
2018-2019 ⁵	\$ 162 million
2019-2020 ⁶	\$ 180 million
2020-2021 ⁷	\$ 180 million
2021-2022 ⁸	\$ 180 million
2022-2023 ⁹	\$ 210 million
2023-2024 ¹⁰	\$ 250 million
Total	\$ 1.2 billion

The Safe Schools Allocation and the school physical security improvement,¹¹ or School Hardening Grant Program, represent the most significant investments in school safety since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Below is a summary of the appropriations associated with these programs:

School Physical Security Improvement Grant	
Fiscal Year	Funding Amount

¹ S. 1011.62(12), F.S.

² Specific Appropriations 5 and 86, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, Laws of Fla. See s. 1011.62(12), F.S.

³ S. 1006.147(7), F.S.

⁴ See, e.g., Specific Appropriation 108, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, Laws of Fla.; see, also, Specific Appropriation 113A, s.2, ch. 2021-36, Specific Appropriation 117A, s. 2, ch. 2020-111, and Specific Appropriation 116A, s.2, ch. 2019-115, Laws of Fla.

⁵ S. 42, ch. 2018-3, Laws of Fla. (\$97,500,000); Specific Appropriations 6 and 92, s. 2, ch. 2018-9, Laws of Fla. (\$64,456,019)

⁶ Specific Appropriations 6 and 93, s. 2, ch. 2019-115, Laws of Fla.

⁷ Specific Appropriations 8 and 92, s. 2, ch. 2020-111, Laws of Fla.

⁸ Specific Appropriations 7 and 90, s. 2, ch. 2021-36, Laws of Fla.

⁹ Specific Appropriations 5 and 86, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, Laws of Fla.

¹⁰ Specific Appropriations 5 and 80, s. 2, ch. 2023-239, Laws of Fla.

¹¹ S. 44, ch. 2018-3, Laws of Fla.

2018-2019 ¹²	\$99 million
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School Hardening Grant	
Fiscal Year	Funding Amount
2019-2020 ¹³	\$ 50 million
2020-2021 ¹⁴	\$ 42 million
2021-2022 ¹⁵	\$ 42 million
2022-2023 ¹⁶	\$ 20 million
Total	\$ 154 million

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million in nonrecurring funds for security funding at Jewish day schools.¹⁷ During a special session in November 2023, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$25 million for security measures at Jewish day schools and preschools¹⁸ and \$20 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program,¹⁹ while amending such program to include nonprofit schools.²⁰ Other than these programs, current law does not generally provide security funding for private schools.

Effect of the Bill

The bill creates s. 1001.2921, F.S., to provide, subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, security funding for Jewish day schools and preschools. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a program to provide funds to make full-time Jewish day schools and preschools in the state secure with professional security hardening, as needed, to better secure facilities of such schools and preschools and to protect their students.

Based on a risk assessment by law enforcement or a private security company, the bill requires funds to be used for the following:

- The purchase and installation of security cameras, perimeter lighting, perimeter fencing, and shatter-resistant glass for windows.
- Hiring or contracting with security personnel who are licensed and regulated by the state and insured.
- Expenses relating to transportation to minimize security exposure of staff, parents, and students.
- Other nonhardening security measures, including, but not limited to providing professional detection, prevention, and security services to such schools and preschools.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the bill.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2024.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

¹² *Id.*
¹³ Specific Appropriation 116A, s. 2, ch. 2019-115, Laws of Fla.
¹⁴ Specific Appropriation 117A, s. 2, ch. 2020-111, Laws of Fla.
¹⁵ Specific Appropriation 113A, s. 2, ch. 2021-36, Laws of Fla.
¹⁶ Specific Appropriation 108, s. 2, ch. 2022-156, Laws of Fla.
¹⁷ Specific Appropriations 100 and 105, s. 2, ch. 2023-239, Laws of Fla.
¹⁸ Ss. 4 and 5, ch. 2023-352, Laws of Fla.
¹⁹ Established in 2023, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program allows Florida nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship and community centers, that are at high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes to apply for program grants to increase safety and security. S. 252.3712, F.S.
²⁰ Ss. 1 and 2, ch. 2023-352, Laws of Fla.

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 appropriates \$20 million in nonrecurring funds for security funding at Jewish day schools and preschools.