LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 488** SLS 26RS 1471
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 27, 2026 10:34 AM
Author: EDMONDS
Dept./Agy.: Education
Subject: School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program
Analyst: Julie Silva

SCHOOLS EN SEE FISC NOTE GF EX

Creates the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to supplement school crisis management and response plans. (8/1/26)

Proposed legislation authorizes the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at city, parish, and other local public schools. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is required to establish participation criteria, and LDOE may select a vendor to operate the program and provide drone response technology. Requires the selected vendor to coordinate with LDOE, LA State Police (LSP), and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association regarding drone operational training procedures for school safety incident response. At least one but no more than four schools will participate in the pilot program on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating schools must provide school mapping data to the selected vendor subject to confidentiality agreements with LDOE and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools. Beginning 12/31/27, LDOE must submit an annual report to the Senate and House education committees on the program's findings and effectiveness.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	**SEE BELOW**	
Agy. Self-Gen.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Ded./Other	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Federal Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Local Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Agy. Self-Gen.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Ded./Other	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Federal Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Local Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Annual Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

To the extent the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) opts to establish a School Safety Drone Pilot Program as authorized in proposed legislation, SGF expenditures may increase by an estimated $600,000 annually.

The measure authorizes, but does not require, LDOE to establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program and oversee its implementation. If the department opts to implement the program, annual expenditures may be incurred for vendor services and program administration. Such costs could be supported through federal grants or private funding if obtained; however, in the absence of such funding, an increase in SGF expenditures is anticipated and, for simplicity, is assumed as the funding source in this note. Proposed legislation does not set a defined term for the pilot program but does require an annual report. As a result, the LFO assumes the program may extend into fiscal years beyond FY 27. Annual expenditures will depend on the number of schools (at least one, but no more than four) participating in the pilot program in a given year. The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools estimates the cost of the program to be $150,000 per site, per year. Assuming the maximum of four sites participates each year, expenditures may total up to $600,000 annually.

For informational purposes, Florida currently operates a Campus Guardian Angel Pilot Program at select school sites in three school districts. The program, similar to the proposed legislation, uses drones to supplement school safety and law enforcement response by providing real-time audio/video feeds and deterrent capabilities during emergencies and is funded in FY 26 with a one-time state appropriation of $557,000.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is responsible for establishing criteria for school participation, and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools serves as a partner, assisting with compliance and safety guidance. Proposed legislation further requires the selected vendor to coordinate with LDOE, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association regarding drone operational training procedures and unified emergency response protocols. To the extent such coordination results in additional administrative workload for participating agencies, any associated impact is anticipated to be minimal and absorbed within existing resources. Local school systems would provide existing campus mapping data to the vendor; because mapping data is already required under current law (R.S. 17:416.16.1) and is being phased in over multiple years, any additional workload for participating schools is expected to be minimal. Annual reports required under the program can be completed by existing LDOE staff using existing resources.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules

☐ 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

☐ 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House

☐ 6.8(F)(1) >= $100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

☐ 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
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