

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Safe Schools Levy; Maintenance of Effort Requirement Repealed

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Overview

The safe schools levy, formerly known as the crime levy, allows school districts to levy for costs associated with student and staff safety issues. Eligible expenses include:

- 4 police liaison services;
- 4 drug abuse prevention programs (DARE);
- 4 gang resistance education training;
- 4 school security;
- 4 the other crime prevention and student and staff safety measures; and
- 4 counseling, social working, and chemical dependency services provided by licensed professionals.

The safe schools levy equals \$30 per pupil unit and a school district that is a member of an intermediate school district may levy up to an additional \$10 per pupil unit for safe schools activities at intermediate school districts. A school district is required to reserve at least \$3 per pupil of its revenue for school counselors and certain other support personnel. In addition, by making the levy, the district is obligated to meet a maintenance of effort for school counselors and other support personnel as measured either by total cost for these activities or by total FTE for these activities.

This bill repeals the maintenance of effort requirement.

Section

- 1** **Safe schools levy.** Strikes the maintenance of effort provision that requires districts to set aside a portion of the safe school levy proceeds to pay for school counselors and other school professionals and to maintain amounts expended on employer services or equivalent numbers of full-time employees.