



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 8, 2024

Honorable Viola Davis
State Representative
404-D Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 49 1532)

Dear Representative Davis:

This bill would provide Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding assistance to eligible public schools to reduce school violence and improve school safety and security. Funding would begin with the 2025-2026 school year and shall not exceed one percent of the total QBE funding allotted to each school for the most recently completed school year. Funding also shall not exceed fifty percent of the actual costs incurred for implementing the school's safety plan, although this condition is subject to the hardship provisions in law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185).

The bill would result in additional school system funding of up to \$103.1 million based on available data. This amount represents the maximum of one percent of the base QBE earnings in FY 2024. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) does not have data on school system's safety plans and their associated costs, which could result in a lower cost to the state.

Depending on the policies and processes adopted to implement the bill, GaDOE may require a staff position to administer the program at an annual cost of \$140,500 (salary, benefits, and travel).

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/ahs