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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_  
ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/23  
SHORT TITLE Mora School Security BILL NUMBER Senate Bill 93  
ANALYST Liu

### APPROPRIATION\* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$78.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to SB95, SB131

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA)  
Department of Public Safety (DPS)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 93

Senate Bill 93 appropriates \$78 thousand from the general fund to the Mora Independent School District for the purpose of updating and installing surveillance cameras and security entry doors districtwide. This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$78 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

Current law requires the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) to exclude direct legislative appropriations made to a district from the state share of PSCOC funded projects. PSFA notes these exclusions (also known as “offsets”) of direct appropriations are accumulated over time, resulting in a higher percentage of projects funded by the school district for new facilities.

In recent years, Mora Independent School District has expressed interest in applying for PSCOC funding, but has been unable to successfully apply due to the district's inability to fund the local share and offset. As of FY23, PSFA notes Mora has a direct legislative appropriation offset of \$1.17 million. The appropriation in this bill will increase to the district's current offset to \$1.24 million in FY24 and require larger contributions by the district in PSCOC-funded projects.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the percentage of public schools reporting the use of security cameras has increased in the last decade, from 61.1 percent in FY10 to 91.1 percent in FY20. Most schools already report having controlled access to buildings during school hours, with 97.1 percent reporting this as a security measure in FY20. Research suggests surveillance cameras in schools may have the effect of simply moving misbehavior to places in or outside of school that lack surveillance.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation in this bill must be expended or encumbered in FY24. PSFA notes school security projects awarded by PSCOC in 2019 and 2020 had a three-year limit for the expenditure of awarded funding. Many districts were unable to complete the security projects in three years. This was in part due to Covid-19 related delays in materials and labor and related challenges with prioritization at the district level. In an effort to ensure the security projects were completed as planned, PSCOC approved emergency awards for districts that requested additional time to complete high priority projects. Therefore, a one year limit might not be enough time for the districts to expend and encumber the funding.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to Senate Bill 95, which appropriates \$25 million from the public school capital outlay fund to the Public Education Department for school safety statewide in FY24, and Senate Bill 131, which reduces the local match rate, removes legislative offsets, and appropriates \$25 million from the public school capital outlay fund directly to school districts for security infrastructure.

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