



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 801** HLS 24RS 1028  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 30, 2024	1:30 PM	<b>Author:</b> LARVADAIN
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> EDUCATION		
<b>Subject:</b> Requires school boards to purchase metal detection devices		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

SCHOOLS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Requires rather than authorizes public school boards to purchase metal detection devices

Proposed legislation requires rather than authorizes all public school boards to purchase metal detection devices and provide training in their use to school administrators as necessary for use in plans developed under current law permitting random weapons searches at all public elementary and secondary schools.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	<b>SEE BELOW</b>					
Local Funds	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

To the extent local school boards do not already have metal detection devices available, they may realize an increase in local fund expenditures to ensure they have a device or devices available for use in random weapon searches at elementary and secondary school sites across a given district. Costs will vary for those school districts that need to purchase devices, and will depend on the type of metal detection device selected. Unless a school has a traditional "walk through" metal detector installed, school boards would need to purchase either a handheld device, which ranges in cost from \$100 to \$200, or a system similar to the OpenGate Weapon Detection System. These systems provide automatic screening without the need for students to remove backpacks or bags, are easily transportable, and can be used indoors or outdoors, though they are more costly, at around \$14,000 per system.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) received \$21.3 M through the federal Stronger Connections Grant in 2022 and awarded 39 school districts \$518,355 each to strengthen access controls across school campuses by reinforcing single-points of entry. Access controls included the purchase of metal detectors, among other security equipment. Districts were deemed eligible for the grant if they had a poverty percentage of 50% or greater and either a chronic absenteeism rate greater than the state average or they were significantly impacted by a natural disaster or traumatic event within the three year period preceding award issuance. The award must be spent by 9/30/25. As provided below, several districts used these awards to purchase metal detection devices. To the extent any of the districts who received awards do not have a metal detection device and have unobligated funds remaining, they could be used for this purpose.

The following information is provided to illustrate the extent to which local school boards are currently in compliance with proposed legislation, but is not intended to be a comprehensive report. In East Baton Rouge Parish all students in grades six to 12 are required to walk through a metal detector prior to entering any middle or high school campus. The parish school board also purchased handheld detectors with the intent to have at least one per elementary school and four per high school. West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana parishes currently have detectors and hand-held wands at all school sites under their jurisdictions. The Calcasieu Parish School Board is in the process of implementing the use of metal detectors districtwide. The Assumption Parish school board has at least 15 walk through metal detectors and an additional (unknown) number of handheld wands at schools across the district. Bossier Parish has a School Resource Officer at every school site and each officer is equipped with a handheld metal detector. Vermillion Parish has metal detectors at each middle and high school and is in the midst of upgrading to "OpenGate" weapon detection systems. Currently, three high school campuses have these systems and the district plans to purchase more as funding becomes available. The Lafayette Parish school board has purchased at least one OpenGate system for each middle and high school in the district. The DeSoto Parish school board has also purchased an OpenGate system for use at athletic events. Calcasieu Parish has also purchased OpenGate devices.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

Senate  
 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**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**