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Overview

The safe schools levy allows school districts to levy for costs associated with student and staff safety issues. Eligible expenses include:

- law enforcement liaison services (School Resource Officers)
- drug abuse prevention programs (DARE)
- gang resistance education training
- school security
- other crime prevention and student and staff safety measures, and
- counseling, social work, and chemical dependency services provided by licensed professionals.

Under current law, the safe schools levy equals \$36 per pupil plus for members of an intermediate school district, up to \$15 per pupil unit for safe schools activities at the intermediate school district.

H.F. 3797 changes the levy to an equalized aid and levy, increases the funding by an unspecified amount, provides funding for charter schools, and authorizes revenue for other cooperatives programs, in addition to intermediate school districts.

Section

1 Safe schools revenue.

Subd. 1. Revenue. Increases the safe schools revenue for school districts from \$36 per pupil unit to an unspecified amount. Provides safe schools aid to charter schools at an unspecified amount.

Section

Subd. 2. Levy. Equalizes safe schools levies for school districts with a tax base per pupil less than the state average tax base per pupil.

Subd. 3. Aid. Sets a school district's safe schools aid equal to the difference between its safe school revenue and its safe schools levy.

Subd. 4. Reserved revenue. Rewrites the safe schools revenue reserve.

Subd. 5. Revenue uses. Keeps the same uses of safe school revenue as current law.

Subd. 6. Cooperative units. Expands the revenue for intermediate school districts to include all cooperative units providing instructional services to students. This adds special education cooperatives, service cooperatives, vocational cooperatives and education districts to the eligible cooperative units. Proportionately increases the funding for cooperative units from \$15 per pupil to match the increase in the safe schools revenue available for school districts.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount of aid to fund the increased revenue for fiscal year 2019, including the charter school aid.