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S.F. No. 4997 – Safe Schools Aid for Charter Schools

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Section 1. Revenue calculation [for charter schools]. Establishes a new safe schools aid for charter schools equal to \$36 times the number of pupil units in the school.

Requires that the aid be reserved and directly used for purposes defined under section 126C.44, subdivision 4, including:

1. costs for the salaries, benefits, and transportation costs of peace officers and sheriffs for liaison in services in the schools;
2. costs for a drug abuse prevention program in the elementary schools;
3. costs for a gang resistance education training curriculum in the schools;
4. costs for security in the schools and on school property;
5. costs for other crime prevention, drug abuse, student and staff safety, voluntary opt-in suicide prevention tools, and violence prevention measures taken by the school;
6. costs for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and substance use disorder counselors to help provide early responses to problems;
7. facility security enhancements including laminated glass, public announcement systems, emergency communications devices, and equipment and facility modifications related to violence prevention and facility security;
8. costs associated with improving the school climate;
9. costs for colocating and collaborating with mental health professionals who are not school employees or contractors; or
10. costs of cybersecurity measures, including updating computer hardware and software, other systems upgrades, and cybersecurity insurance costs.

(Under current law, a school district may annually levy up to \$36 per pupil to pay the costs of these same activities.)