

As Reported by the House Education and Career Readiness Committee

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Representatives Patterson, LaTourette

**Cosponsors: Representatives Boggs, Lepore-Hagan, Carfagna, Slaby, Rogers,
Scherer, Smith, K., Miller, Sheehy, Brenner, Fedor, Hambley, Henne**

A BILL

To enact section 3313.951 of the Revised Code with
regard to school resource officers.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3313.951 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

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Sec. 3313.951. (A) As used in this section:

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(1) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in
section 149.435 of the Revised Code.

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(2) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as in section
2935.01 of the Revised Code.

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(3) "School resource officer" means a peace officer who is
appointed through a memorandum of understanding between a law
enforcement agency and a school district to provide services to
a school district or school as described in this section.

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(B) (1) A school resource officer who provides services to
a school district or school on or after the effective date of
this section shall, except as described in division (B) (2) of

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this section, satisfy both of the following conditions: 17

(a) Complete a basic training program approved by the Ohio 18
peace officer training commission, as described in division (B) 19
(1) of section 109.77 of the Revised Code; 20

(b) Complete at least forty hours of school resource 21
officer training within one year after appointment to provide 22
those services through one of the following entities, as 23
approved by the Ohio peace officer training commission: 24

(i) The national association of school resource officers; 25

(ii) The Ohio school resource officer association. 26

(2) A school resource officer who is appointed to provide 27
services to a school district or school prior to the effective 28
date of this section shall be exempt from compliance with the 29
training requirements prescribed in division (B) (1) (b) of this 30
section. 31

(3) A certified training program provided by an entity 32
described in division (B) (1) (b) (i) or (ii) of this section shall 33
include instruction regarding skills, tactics, and strategies 34
necessary to address the specific nature of all of the 35
following: 36

(a) School campuses; 37

(b) School building security needs and characteristics; 38

(c) The nuances of law enforcement functions conducted 39
inside a school environment, including: 40

(i) Understanding the psychological and physiological 41
characteristics consistent with the ages of the students in the 42
assigned building or buildings; 43

(ii) Understanding the appropriate role of school resource officers regarding discipline and reducing the number of referrals to juvenile court; and

(iii) Understanding the use of developmentally appropriate interview, interrogation, de-escalation, and behavior management strategies.

(d) The mechanics of being a positive role model for youth, including appropriate communication techniques which enhance interactions between the school resource officer and students;

(e) Providing assistance on topics such as classroom management tools to provide law-related education to students and methods for managing the behaviors sometimes associated with educating children with special needs;

(f) The mechanics of the laws regarding compulsory attendance, as set forth in Chapter 3321. of the Revised Code;

(g) Identifying the trends in drug use, eliminating the instance of drug use, and encouraging a drug-free environment in schools.

(4) The Ohio peace officer training commission shall adopt rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, for the approval of an entity described in division (B) (1) (b) (i) or (ii) of this section that provides certified school resource officer training.

(C) (1) If a school district decides to utilize school resource officer services, the school district and the appropriate law enforcement agency shall first enter into a memorandum of understanding that clarifies the purpose of the school resource officer program and roles and expectations

between the participating entities. If a school district is 73
already utilizing school resource officer services on the 74
effective date of this section, the school district and the law 75
enforcement agency shall enter into a memorandum of 76
understanding within one year after the effective date of this 77
section. 78

(2) Each memorandum of understanding shall address the 79
following items: 80

(a) Clearly defined set of goals for the school resource 81
officer program; 82

(b) Background requirements or suggested expertise for 83
employing law enforcement in the school setting, including an 84
understanding of child and adolescent development; 85

(c) Professional development, including training 86
requirements that focus on age-appropriate practices for 87
conflict resolution and developmentally informed de-escalation 88
and crisis intervention methods; 89

(d) Clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and 90
expectations of the parties involved, including school resource 91
officers, law enforcement, school administrators, staff, and 92
teachers; 93

(e) A protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus 94
school discipline is to be handled; 95

(f) The requirement for coordinated crisis planning and 96
updating of school crisis plans; 97

(g) Any other discretionary items determined by the 98
parties to foster a school resource officer program that builds 99
positive relationships between law enforcement, school staff, 100

and the students, promotes a safe and positive learning 101
environment, and decreases the number of youth formally referred 102
to the juvenile justice system. 103

(3) The school district shall post in a conspicuous place 104
on the district's web site, or other location where the district 105
is customarily required to make documents available to the 106
public, any memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to 107
division (C) of this section. 108

(4) A school district, through its school administration, 109
may give students an opportunity to provide input during the 110
drafting process of any memorandum of understanding being 111
entered into pursuant to division (C) of this section. 112

(D) (1) In accordance with the requirements prescribed in 113
this section, a school resource officer may work in one or more 114
school districts or schools providing the following services: 115

(a) Assistance with adoption, implementation, and 116
amendment of the comprehensive emergency management plan 117
required under section 3313.536 of the Revised Code; 118

(b) Carrying out any additional responsibilities assigned 119
to the school resource officer under the employment engagement, 120
contract, or memorandum of understanding, including but not 121
limited to: 122

(i) Providing a safe learning environment; 123

(ii) Providing valuable resources to school staff members; 124

(iii) Fostering positive relationships with students and 125
staff; 126

(iv) Developing strategies to resolve problems affecting 127
youth and protecting all students. 128

<u>(2) A school resource officer shall consult with local law</u>	129
<u>enforcement officials and first responders when assisting a</u>	130
<u>school district's administrator in the development of a</u>	131
<u>comprehensive emergency management plan.</u>	132
<u>(E) The school district or school administrator shall have</u>	133
<u>final decision-making authority regarding all matters of school</u>	134
<u>discipline.</u>	135