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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 168*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Reported by Senate Veterans and Public Safety

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Hoagland

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SUMMARY

Ohio Mobile Training Team Program

- Establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program.
- Requires the Director of Public Safety to appoint a Chief Mobile Training Officer, who then selects 16 regional mobile training officers that provide services regarding school and campus safety and security to primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.
- Requires an individual to be either a licensed peace officer or a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and to have completed any additional training requirements required by the Director or the Chief Mobile Training Officer to be considered for the program.
- Requires all Mobile Training Team officers to complete an approved weapons training recertification program each quarter.

School safety designees

- Creates the position of a “school safety designee,” who is an individual authorized to carry firearms in a school safety zone and may be a school resource officer (SRO), a security officer, or another individual authorized by a district board or school governing authority.

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

Firearms qualification and requalification training

- Requires the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to recommend rules to the Attorney General, in addition to those required under continuing law, regarding requirements for firearms qualification and requalification training programs that must be completed by the Ohio Mobile Training Team and school safety designees.
- Authorizes the Executive Director of the OPOTC to:
 - Approve firearms requalification training programs that the Chief Mobile Training Officer or a regional mobile training officer must complete quarterly;
 - Certify instructors for training programs to be provided to regional mobile training officers for their certification as qualified instructors for basic firearms training and requalification training programs; and
 - Certify regional mobile training officers as qualified instructors for the basic firearms training and requalification training programs for school safety designees.
- Requires the Attorney General to adopt rules governing firearms qualification and requalification training programs that must be completed by the officers of the Ohio Mobile Training Team and school safety designees.

Emergency management plans

- Requires additional protocols for building administrators in the development, testing, and administration of building emergency management plans.

Appropriation

- Makes an appropriation for the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Ohio Mobile Training Team Program

The bill establishes the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program within the Department of Public Safety. Under the program, the Director of Public Safety must appoint a Chief Mobile Training Officer within 90 days after the bill's effective date. The Chief Mobile Training Officer then must select 16 regional mobile training officers in consultation with the Director within 90 days after the Chief's appointment. The regional mobile training officers provide services regarding school and campus safety and security to public and nonpublic primary and secondary schools and state and private institutions of higher education.¹

¹ R.C. 5502.01(L), 5502.70, and 5502.702.

Eligibility and training

To be eligible, a training officer must be either a licensed peace officer or a veteran of the U.S. armed forces who has been honorably discharged or who has been transferred to the reserve forces with evidence of satisfactory service and meet all additional qualifications required by the Director of Public Safety or the Chief Mobile Training Officer.² Furthermore, the Chief Mobile Training Officer and each regional mobile training officer must complete a quarterly firearms requalification program approved by the executive director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. The bill expressly prohibits these individuals from carrying firearms during the course of official duties if they do not complete the quarterly requalification training programs.³

Powers and duties

The bill requires the Chief Mobile Training Officer to administer the program, adopt additional qualifications for regional mobile training officers, and to enforce rules and execute additional duties required by the Director of Public Safety.

The bill specifies the following duties for each regional officer:

1. Assist administrators within the officer's region with the development or review of an emergency management plan, upon request;
2. Assist in the development or review of security protocols of state or private institutions of higher education within the officer's region, upon request;
3. Assist administrators of a public or nonpublic school within the officer's region with any other security protocols for activities or events outside of a school building during or after school hours, upon request;
4. Assist in strategic communications between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the event of an emergency situation at a school or an institution of higher education within the officer's region, upon request;
5. Offer tactical emergency medical services training to public and nonpublic schools within the officer's region;
6. Promote the use of the SaferOH tip line within the officer's region;⁴
7. Enforce rules and execute additional duties prescribed by either the Director of Public Safety or the Chief Mobile Training Officer;

² R.C. 5502.701 and 5502.702.

³ R.C. 109.801(A) and 5502.701(D).

⁴ Information on the tip line can be found at https://saferschools.ohio.gov/content/tip_line_information.

8. Seek certification from the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to provide firearms training to school safety designees or refer them to another person who is certified to provide that training; and
9. Oversee training operations and offer training opportunities for school employees, which may include observing emergency management plan tests, providing weapons manipulation instruction, and other “appropriate activities.”⁵

The bill expressly permits the Chief Mobile Training Officer and regional mobile training officers to enter into any necessary agreements to carry out their duties. But it also specifies that, generally, they do not have authority over the incident management structure or responsibilities of local emergency response personnel.⁶

Mobile training team regions

The bill prescribes 16 mobile training team regions to correspond with the regions of the Educational Regional Service System, as shown in the table below.⁷

Region	Counties
1	Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood
2	Erie, Huron, and Lorain
3	Cuyahoga
4	Geauga and Lake
5	Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull
6	Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, and Shelby
7	Ashland, Crawford, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, and Wyandot
8	Medina, Portage, and Summit
9	Columbiana, Stark, and Wayne
10	Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble
11	Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union
12	Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, Noble, and Tuscarawas
13	Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren

⁵ R.C. 5502.702(C).

⁶ R.C. 5502.70(C) and (D).

⁷ R.C. 5502.70(C). See R.C. 3312.02, not in the bill.

Region	Counties
14	Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, and Highland
15	Lawrence, Pike, Ross, and Scioto
16	Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, and Washington

School safety designees

The bill creates the position of “school safety designee,” who is an individual authorized to carry firearms in a school safety zone and who may be any of the following individuals:

- A school resource officer (SRO) authorized under a memorandum of understanding between a law enforcement agency and a school district to carry firearms while on duty for the district;
- A security officer who is not an SRO but who is employed by a school district or school and is authorized to carry firearms while on duty; or
- Any individual who is neither an SRO or security officer but who is authorized by a district board or school governing authority to convey or possess deadly weapons or ordnance into a school safety zone.⁸

Under the bill, an individual who is not a SRO must successfully complete an initial basic firearms training program for school safety designees and possess a valid concealed handgun license. Further, an individual may not continue serving as a school safety designee without completing a firearms requalification training program in the preceding quarter. All required training for a school safety designee must be provided by either a certified regional mobile training officer or another person authorized by the OPOTC to provided firearms requalification training.⁹

Firearms qualification and requalification training programs

Duties of the OPOTC

Training rule recommendations

The bill requires the OPOTC to recommend rules to the Attorney General regarding:

1. Requirements for firearms requalification training programs that the Chief Mobile Training Officer or a regional mobile training officer must complete on a quarterly basis to continue serving in that capacity;

⁸ R.C. 5502.701(A)(2), (C), and (D); see also R.C. 2923.122 and 3313.951, neither in the bill.

⁹ R.C. 109.71(I) through (K) and 5502.701(D) and (E).

2. Requirements for firearms training programs that regional mobile training officers must complete to be certified as an instructor authorized to provide school safety designees with basic firearms training and requalification training programs;
3. Requirements for basic firearms training programs that a person who is not a SRO must successfully complete to be appointed as a school safety designee, with training provided by a regional mobile training officer or another authorized instructor;
4. Entities or persons that may be certified as instructors for training programs to be provided for the Chief Mobile Training Officer and regional mobile training officers; and
5. Requirements for quarterly firearms requalification training programs that each school safety designee must complete to continue serving in that capacity, with training provided by a regional mobile training officer or another authorized instructor.¹⁰

Program approval

The bill also authorizes the Executive Director of the OPOTC to do the following:

1. Approve quarterly firearms requalification training programs for the Chief Mobile Training Officer and regional mobile training officers;
2. Certify instructors for the training programs; and
3. Certify regional mobile training officers as qualified instructors for the basic firearms training and requalification training programs for school safety designees.¹¹

Adoption of rules by the Attorney General

After receiving the rules recommendations from the OPOTC, the Attorney General must adopt rules governing basic firearms training programs that a school safety designee who is not a SRO must complete to be appointed to that position, with training provided by a regional mobile training officer or another authorized instructor. The Attorney General, in addition to those required under continuing law, also must adopt rules governing firearms requalification programs approved by the Executive Director of the OPOTC that the Chief Mobile Training Officer and each regional mobile training officer and school safety designee must complete each year, at quarterly intervals.¹²

School emergency management plans

The bill makes several changes to the development and operation of school comprehensive emergency management plans required under continuing law. First, it permits

¹⁰ R.C. 109.73(A)(16) through (20).

¹¹ R.C. 109.75(N) through (P)

¹² R.C. 109.743(B) and 109.801(A)(2).

each building administrator to involve the regional mobile training officer when developing or revising a building's emergency management plan.¹³

Second, it requires each administrator to incorporate plans for (1) implementing mobile communications, (2) mobile accountability, and (3) mobile reunification into each building's emergency management plan.¹⁴

Third, it adds regional mobile training officers to the list of agencies that may receive a copy of a building's emergency management plan upon request. Current law permits the fire department and the emergency medical service organization serving the political subdivision in which the building is located and the county emergency management agency for the building to request a copy of building emergency management plans.¹⁵

Finally, the bill requires that each administrator prepare and conduct an emergency management test at least once per quarter. Administrators also must file a defined mission statement prior to conducting a test and an after-action report upon completion of a test with the regional mobile training officer. Current law prescribes only one annual test, and administrative rule requires administrators to file an after-action report with the Department of Education within 30 days after a test.¹⁶

Appropriation

The bill appropriates to the Department of Public Safety \$6 million in each of FY 2022 and FY 2023 for the purpose of administrating the Ohio Mobile Training Team Program.¹⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-22-21
Reported, S. Veterans and Public Safety	---

S0168-RS-134/ar

¹³ R.C. 5502.262(B)(1).

¹⁴ R.C. 5502.262(B)(2)(b).

¹⁵ R.C. 5502.262(C)(2)(d).

¹⁶ R.C. 5502.262(E).

¹⁷ Sections 4 and 5 of the bill.