



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Anthony Kremer

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 318 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. Patterson and
LaTourette

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: School resource officer qualifications and responsibilities

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill's training requirements for new school resource officers may result in minimal additional costs for some law enforcement agencies and public districts and schools.
- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

School resource officer training requirements

The bill requires an individual who wishes to work as a school resource officer (SRO) for the first time, on or after the bill's effective date, to complete a training program approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and 40 hours of SRO training through either the National Association for School Resource Officers (NASRO), the Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA), or any other association with a certified training program that meets certain specified requirements. Existing SROs are exempt from the bill's training requirements.

Both OSROA and NASRO provide a 40-hour SRO basic training program. In general, fees for SRO basic training range from \$440 for the program offered by OSROA to \$495 for the program offered by NASRO. According to OSROA, law enforcement agencies and school districts typically split the cost of SRO basic training. Recently, a small number of local parent teacher organizations have supported SRO training costs as well. As a result of the bill, law enforcement agencies and school districts may incur a minimal increase in training costs for new SROs that otherwise would not have completed the required SRO training.

While there is no database that tracks the number of active SROs across the state, OSROA estimates that roughly 70% of all school districts have at least one SRO. As a point of reference, OSROA has approximately 650 members and NASRO has 94 members in Ohio, though not all SROs are members of these organizations. OSROA

provided basic training to 109 individuals in 2016 and 108 individuals thus far in 2017. Additional SROs in Ohio likely received training from NASRO.

School resource officer duties and responsibilities

SROs are typically employed as police officers of the municipal corporation, township, or other political subdivision within which jurisdiction they exercise their police authority. Generally, they work under a contract or memorandum of understanding between the district or school and the political subdivision. The bill essentially codifies the responsibilities and police powers of SROs. The bill also permits SROs to carry out any responsibilities assigned under the employment engagement contract, including (1) providing a safe learning environment, (2) providing valuable resources to school staff members, (3) fostering positive relationships with students and staff, and (4) developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students. The bill qualifies an SRO to consult with local law enforcement officials and first responders when providing assistance with adoption, implementation, and amendment of comprehensive school emergency management plans. However, the bill prohibits an SRO from asking a school employee to conduct a search for law enforcement purposes or initiating or participating in a physically invasive search without serious and immediate threat. According to OSROA, the bill will not impact the workload of SROs, as most are already fulfilling similar duties and responsibilities.