



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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

**Status:** As Re-referred to House Finance

**Sponsor:** Reps. Patterson and  
LaTourette

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Subject:** School resource officer qualifications and responsibilities

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### Fiscal Highlights

- The bill's training requirements for school resource officers (SROs) may result in minimal additional costs for some law enforcement agencies and public districts and schools.
- School districts and the local law enforcement agencies they partner with for SRO services may incur minimal administrative expenses to develop a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU), as required by the bill. Each MOU must address professional development training for SROs, among other components.

### Detailed Fiscal Analysis

#### School resource officer training requirements

The bill requires an individual who wishes to work as a school resource officer (SRO) on or after the bill's effective date to complete a basic peace officer training program and 40 hours of SRO training approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission within one year after appointment. Trainings must be completed through either the National Association for School Resource Officers (NASRO) or the Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA). SROs appointed prior to the bill's effective date are exempt from the 40-hour SRO training requirement.

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 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. In 2016 and 2017, 109 and 99 sworn peace officers completed OSROA basic training, respectively. 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 (MOU) between the district or school and the political subdivision. The bill requires a school district that decides to use SRO services to enter into an MOU with the appropriate law enforcement agency that addresses the purpose and expectations of an SRO program. Among other requirements, the MOU must address professional development, including training on certain topics. School districts that already use SRO services have one year after the effective date of the bill to enter into an MOU. The school district must post the MOU in a conspicuous place either on the district's website or another public location.

Those school districts and law enforcement agencies that do not have a formal MOU for SRO services that complies with the bill may incur some minimal administrative costs to develop one. Requiring the MOU to address professional development may lead to a minimal increase in training costs, depending on the training activities currently undertaken by SROs and the level of continuing professional development required by the MOU. Ongoing training may already be a common occurrence; OSROA's model MOU agreement includes a provision recommending that SROs receive additional training each year on school-based law enforcement topics. OSROA offers training on a variety of topics throughout the year for SROs. The trainings usually cost less than \$100 per person.

The bill essentially codifies the responsibilities of SROs by permitting them to carry out any responsibilities assigned under the employment engagement contract or MOU, 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 also 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. According to OSROA, the bill will not impact the workload of SROs, as most are already fulfilling similar duties and responsibilities.