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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 318
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 318's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Cutrona

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, law enforcement agencies that decide to partner with chartered nonpublic schools for school resource officer (SRO) services may incur increases in personnel, training, equipment, and administrative expenses. Law enforcement agencies often split the costs of SROs with schools.

Detailed Analysis

Current law permits law enforcement agencies to provide school resource officers (SROs) to school districts. The bill extends this permission to chartered nonpublic schools within the law enforcement agency's territorial jurisdiction. If a chartered nonpublic school wants to use an SRO, the bill requires the school to engage for SRO services in the same manner as school districts under current law, meaning that the SRO must have completed certain required training and the school and law enforcement agency must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) addressing the purpose of the SRO program, roles, and expectations between the participating entities. However, prior to the 2026-2027 school year, the bill exempts chartered nonpublic schools from these requirements, allowing them to engage an SRO who has not received SRO training or been appointed under an MOU.

Law enforcement agencies may incur increases in personnel, training, and equipment costs for SROs if they opt to partner with chartered nonpublic schools for those services. They may also incur minimal administrative expenses to develop a formal MOU. These costs may be temporarily avoided prior to the 2026-2027 school year per the bill's exemption. As a point of reference, the Ohio School Resource Officer Association (OSROA) indicates that a law enforcement agency and school district will discuss and often come to an agreement of who will pay for the SRO's personnel costs, training, and equipment, depending on the financial capabilities of each party. Presumably, the process would be similar for arrangements with

chartered nonpublic schools. The arrangements may include, for example, the law enforcement agency paying 100%, the school paying 100% while school is in session, or each party sharing costs equally.

Ohio law requires an individual who wishes to work as an SRO for the first time to complete at least 40 hours of specialized training through one of three entities: (1) the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), (2) OSROA, or (3) the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Both OSROA and NASRO provide a 40-hour SRO basic training program. In general, fees for SRO basic training range from \$425 for the program offered by OSROA to \$550 for the program offered by NASRO. The Attorney General's Office offers school safety grants that can be used to pay for SRO certification training.¹ OSROA indicates that support for SRO training costs also may be available from various organizations in the community, including businesses, parent-teacher organizations, and other civic groups.

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¹ See the "Ohio Attorney General's FY26 School Safety Grant" dropdown option under "Ohio Based Grant Opportunities," which may be accessed by conducting a keyword "School Safety Grants" search on the Ohio School Safety Center's website: ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov.