As Introduced

136th General Assembly Regular Session 2025-2026

S. B. No. 318

Senator Cutrona

То	amend sections 505.431 and 3313.951 of the	1
	Revised Code to authorize a law enforcement	2
	agency to provide school resource officer	3
	services to a chartered nonpublic school.	4
BE IT ENACTE	D BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	

Section 1. That sections 505.431 and 3313.951 of the 5
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

7 Sec. 505.431. (A) The police department of any township or township police district may provide police protection to any county, municipal corporation, or township of this state, to a park district created pursuant to section 511.18 or 1545.01 of 10 the Revised Code, or to a governmental entity of an adjoining 11 state without a contract to provide police protection, upon the 12 approval, by resolution, of the board of township trustees of 1.3 the township in which the department is located and upon 14 authorization by an officer or employee of the police department 15 providing the police protection who is designated by title of 16 office or position, pursuant to the resolution of the board of 17 township trustees, to give such authorization. 18

(B) The police department of any township or township

police district may, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding

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under division (C) of section 3313.951 of the Revised Code, and	21
upon the approval, by resolution, of the board of township	22
trustees, provide school resource officer services to a	23
chartered nonpublic school located in the department's	24
territorial jurisdiction.	25
(C) Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code, insofar as it	26
applies to the operation of police departments, shall apply to	27
any township police department or township police district and	28
to its members when such members are rendering police services	29
pursuant to this section outside the township or township police	30
district by which they are employed.	31
Police department members acting, as provided in this	32
section, outside the township or township police district by	33
which they are employed shall be entitled to participate in any	34
pension or indemnity fund established by their employer to the	35
same extent as while acting within the township or township	36
police district by which they are employed. Those members shall	37
be entitled to all the rights and benefits of Chapter 4123. of	38
the Revised Code to the same extent as while performing services	39
within the township or township police district by which they	40
are employed.	41
Sec. 3313.951. (A) As used in this section:	42
(1) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in	43
section 149.435 of the Revised Code.	44
(2) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as in division	45
(A)(1) of section 109.71 of the Revised Code.	46
(3) "School resource officer" means a peace officer who is	47
appointed through a memorandum of understanding between a law	48
enforcement agency and a school district or a chartered	49

<pre>nonpublic school to provide services to a school district or</pre>	50
school as described in this section.	51
(B)(1) A school resource officer who provides services to	52
a school district or school on or after November 2, 2018, shall,	53
except as described in division (B)(2) of this section, satisfy	54
both of the following conditions:	55
(a) Complete a basic training program approved by the Ohio	56
peace officer training commission, as described in division (B)	57
(1) of section 109.77 of the Revised Code;	58
(b) Complete at least forty hours of school resource	59
officer training within one year after appointment to provide	60
those services through one of the following entities, as	61
approved by the Ohio peace officer training commission:	62
(i) The national association of school resource officers;	63
(ii) The Ohio school resource officer association;	64
(iii) The Ohio peace officer training academy.	65
(2) A school resource officer who is appointed to provide	66
services to a school district or school prior to November 2,	67
2018, shall be exempt from compliance with the training	68
requirements prescribed in division (B)(1)(b) of this section.	69
(3) A certified training program provided by an entity	70
described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section shall include	71
instruction regarding skills, tactics, and strategies necessary	72
to address the specific nature of all of the following:	73
(a) School campuses;	74
(b) School building security needs and characteristics;	75
(c) The nuances of law enforcement functions conducted	76

inside a school environment, including:	77
(i) Understanding the psychological and physiological	78
characteristics consistent with the ages of the students in the	79
assigned building or buildings;	80
(ii) Understanding the appropriate role of school resource	81
officers regarding discipline and reducing the number of	82
referrals to juvenile court; and	83
(iii) Understanding the use of developmentally appropriate	84
interview, interrogation, de-escalation, and behavior management	85
strategies.	86
	0.5
(d) The mechanics of being a positive role model for	87
youth, including appropriate communication techniques which	88
enhance interactions between the school resource officer and	89
students;	90
(e) Providing assistance on topics such as classroom	91
management tools to provide law-related education to students	92
and methods for managing the behaviors sometimes associated with	93
educating children with special needs;	94
(f) The mechanics of the laws regarding compulsory	95
attendance, as set forth in Chapter 3321. of the Revised Code;	96
(g) Identifying the trends in drug use, eliminating the	97
instance of drug use, and encouraging a drug-free environment in	98
schools.	99
(4) The Ohio peace officer training commission shall adopt	100
rules, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, for	101
the approval of school resource officer training provided by an	102
entity described in division (B)(1)(b) of this section.	103
(C)(1) If a school district or chartered nonpublic school	104

decides to utilize school resource officer services, the school	105
district or chartered nonpublic school and the appropriate law	106
enforcement agency shall first enter into a memorandum of	107
understanding that clarifies the purpose of the school resource	108
officer program and roles and expectations between the	109
participating entities. If a school district is already	110
utilizing school resource officer services on November 2, 2018,	111
the school district and the law enforcement agency shall enter	112
into a memorandum of understanding within one year after	113
November 2, 2018.	114
(2) Each memorandum of understanding shall address the	115
following items:	116
(a) Clearly defined set of goals for the school resource	117
officer program;	118
(b) Background requirements or suggested expertise for	119
employing law enforcement in the school setting, including an	120
understanding of child and adolescent development;	121
(c) Professional development, including training	122
requirements that focus on age-appropriate practices for	123
conflict resolution and developmentally informed de-escalation	124
and crisis intervention methods;	125
(d) Clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and	126
expectations of the parties involved, including school resource	127
officers, law enforcement, school administrators, staff, and	128
teachers;	129
(e) A protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus	130
school discipline is to be handled;	131
(f) The requirement for coordinated crisis planning and	132
updating of school crisis plans;	133

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(g) Any other discretionary items determined by the	134
parties to foster a school resource officer program that builds	135
positive relationships between law enforcement, school staff,	136
and the students, promotes a safe and positive learning	137
environment, and decreases the number of youth formally referred	138
to the juvenile justice system.	139
(3) A school district or school, through its school	140
administration, may give students an opportunity to provide	141
input during the drafting process of any memorandum of	142
understanding being entered into pursuant to division (C) of	143
this section.	144
(D)(1) In accordance with the requirements prescribed in	145
this section, a school resource officer may work in one or more	146
school districts or schools providing the following services:	147
(a) Assistance with adoption, implementation, and	148
amendment of the comprehensive emergency management plan	149
required under section 5502.262 of the Revised Code;	150
(b) Carrying out any additional responsibilities assigned	151
to the school resource officer under the employment engagement,	152
contract, or memorandum of understanding, including but not	153
limited to:	154
(i) Providing a safe learning environment;	155
(ii) Providing valuable resources to school staff members;	156
(iii) Fostering positive relationships with students and	157
staff;	158
(iv) Developing strategies to resolve problems affecting	159
youth and protecting all students.	160
(2) A school resource officer shall consult with local law	161

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enforcement officials and first responders when assisting a	162
school district's or chartered nonpublic school's administrator	163
in the development of a comprehensive emergency management plan.	164
(E) The school district or school administrator shall have	165
final decision-making authority regarding all matters of school	166
discipline.	167
Section 2. That existing sections 505.431 and 3313.951 of	168
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	169
Section 3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in	170
section 3313.951 of the Revised Code as amended by this act,	171
prior to the 2026-2027 school year, a chartered nonpublic school	172
may engage the services of a school resource officer who does	173
not meet the requirements in division (B) of that section or is	174
not appointed under a memorandum of understanding under division	175
(C) of that section.	176