

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 407

5 By: Senator Irvin
6 By: Representatives Scott, Cozart, L. Johnson, Slape
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS; TO
10 REQUIRE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
11 THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITH JURISDICTION
12 ADOPT A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING SCHOOL
13 RESOURCE OFFICERS; TO REQUIRE THAT SCHOOL RESOURCE
14 OFFICERS AND CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES COMPLETE
15 SPECIALIZED TRAINING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

18 TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
19 DIRECTORS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
20 AGENCY TO ADOPT A MEMORANDUM OF
21 UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE
22 OFFICERS; AND TO REQUIRE SCHOOL RESOURCE
23 OFFICERS COMPLETE SPECIALIZED TRAINING.
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-128, concerning school resource
30 officers, is amended to add additional subsections to read as follows:

31 (c)(1) A school district board of directors that accepts a school
32 resource officer shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
33 local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction, or adopt policies and
34 procedures if the school district has an institutional law enforcement
35 officer as described by § 6-13-1701 et seq., that governs the school resource
36 officer and includes without limitation:



1 (A) The financial responsibilities of each party;

2 (B) The chain of command;

3 (C) The process for the selection of school resource
4 officers;

5 (D) The process for the evaluation of school resource
6 officers;

7 (E) The training requirements for school resource
8 officers; and

9 (F) The roles and responsibilities of school resource
10 officers, which shall include without limitation:

11 (i) Clarification of the school resource officer's
12 involvement in student discipline;

13 (ii) The use of physical restraints or chemical
14 sprays;

15 (iii) The use of firearms; and

16 (iv) Making arrests on the public school campus.

17 (2) The memorandum of understanding required under subdivision
18 (c)(1) of this section shall be based on a model memorandum created by the
19 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Arkansas Center for
20 School Safety, which shall include without limitation the requirements listed
21 in subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

22 (3) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
23 promulgate rules specifying how the adoption of a memorandum of understanding
24 or policies and procedures shall be verified.

25 (d)(1) Sworn, nonsupervisory law enforcement personnel, including
26 without limitation school resource officers, who are assigned to a public
27 school campus during the instructional day or employed by a public school
28 district shall:

29 (A) Within eighteen (18) months of being assigned or
30 employed by the public school district:

31 (i)(a) Complete a forty-hour basic school resource
32 officer training program developed and provided, or approved, by the Arkansas
33 Center for School Safety.

34 (b) The training required under subdivision
35 (d)(1)(A)(i)(a) of this section shall include without limitation:

36 (1) The roles and responsibilities of

1 school resource officers in public schools;

2 (2) Laws that are specific to public
3 schools and students in public schools; and

4 (3) Adolescent behavior and development;
5 and

6 (ii)(a) Obtain certification in Youth Mental Health
7 First Aid.

8 (b) Youth Mental Health First Aid
9 certification shall be maintained and renewed every four (4) years if the
10 school resource officer remains assigned to or employed by a public school
11 district;

12 (B)(i) Within five (5) years after receiving the initial
13 basic school resource officer training program, complete a sixteen-hour
14 school resource officer refresher training developed and provided, or
15 approved, by the Arkansas Center for School Safety.

16 (ii) The school resource officer refresher training
17 required under subdivision (d)(1)(B)(i) of this section shall be completed
18 every five (5) years; and

19 (C)(i) Annually complete twelve (12) hours of public
20 school-specific continuing education developed and provided, or approved, by
21 the Arkansas Center for School Safety.

22 (ii) The Youth Mental Health First Aid training
23 required under subdivision (d)(1)(A)(ii) of this section and the school
24 resource officer refresher training required under subdivision (d)(1)(B) of
25 this section shall count towards the twelve (12) hours of public school-
26 specific continuing education required under subdivision (d)(1)(C)(i) of this
27 section in the years during which the Youth Mental Health First Aid and
28 school resource officer refresher trainings are completed.

29 (2) A school resource officer who is assigned by a public school
30 for only extracurricular activities is exempt from the training requirements
31 under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.

32 (e)(1) A public school district superintendent and public school
33 principal who accept a school resource officer or employ an institutional
34 officer as defined by § 6-13-1701 shall complete a one-hour school resource
35 officer roles and responsibilities training developed and provided, or
36 approved, by the Arkansas Center for School Safety within nine (9) months of

1 accepting or employing the school resource officer.

2 (2) Public school district personnel directly responsible for
3 supervising a school resource officer shall complete a one-hour school
4 resource officer roles and responsibilities training developed and provided,
5 or approved, by the Arkansas Center for School Safety within one (1) year of
6 accepting or employing the school resource officer and every two (2) years
7 thereafter.

8 (3) Training received by a licensed educator under subdivisions
9 (e)(1) and (2) of this section may count towards the professional development
10 required for renewal of an educator's license by the Division of Elementary
11 and Secondary Education Rules Governing Professional Development.

12 (f)(1) The Arkansas Center for School Safety shall monitor compliance
13 with the continuing education and training requirements under this section.

14 (2) A school resource officer who fails to complete any training
15 required under this section shall be unable to serve as a school resource
16 officer until the training required under this section is complete.

17 (3) A school resource officer shall not be assigned to a public
18 school district or a public school in which the public school district
19 superintendent or public school principal have not completed the training
20 required under this section.

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