

HOUSE BILL 504

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-36-205 and Title 49, relative to school safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Each comprehensive district-wide school safety plan established pursuant to this part shall include at least one (1) school resource officer or similarly trained staff member to be present at each school within the LEA during school hours.

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any similarly trained staff member shall be subject to the training and screening requirements for school resource officers including, but not limited to, those established by § 49-6-4217 and following such training and screening shall be permitted to possess and carry a firearm on the grounds of the school at which the staff member is assigned.

(c) If an LEA fails to establish a plan in compliance with this section or fails to follow a plan established pursuant to this section, the commissioner may withhold state funds, in an amount determined by the commissioner, from the LEA until the LEA is in compliance.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-805(3), is amended by deleting the language "school resource officers" and by substituting instead the language "school resource officers or similarly trained staff members".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-805(6)(A), is amended by deleting the language "school resource officers" and by substituting instead the language "school resource officers, similarly trained staff members".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-36-205(a)(3), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(D) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, any member who would otherwise be covered under the mandatory retirement provisions of this section may be employed by a local education agency (LEA) as a school resource officer subject to the employment standards of § 49-6-4217.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.