

2018 -- H 7854

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICERS

Introduced By: Representative Robert D. Phillips

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 45 of the General Laws entitled "TOWNS AND CITIES" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 69

4 RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ACT OF 2018

5 **45-69-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island school resource
7 officers act of 2018."

8 **45-69-2. Definitions.**

9 When used in this chapter, the following words and phrases are construed as follows:

10 (1) "Chief law enforcement officer" means the chief of police for a city or town or the
11 highest ranking law enforcement officer of a duly organized police force or the superintendent of
12 the state police.

13 (2) "School resource officer" means a duly sworn active, retired, reserve, or special law
14 enforcement or police officer with all necessary training and current certifications as a school
15 resource officer appointed by the chief law enforcement officer to provide law enforcement and
16 security services to designated schools.

17 **45-69-3. Training.**

18 (a) The Rhode Island police officers commission on standards and training, in

1 consultation with the attorney general shall develop a training course for school resource officers.
2 The attorney general, in conjunction with the police officers commission on standards and
3 training shall ensure that the training course is developed within one hundred eighty (180) days of
4 the effective date of this chapter. The course, at a minimum, shall provide comprehensive training
5 in current school resource officers' practices and concepts. The course shall be made available to:

6 (1) Any law enforcement officer referred by the chief law enforcement officer of any city
7 or town or by the superintendent of the state police; and

8 (2) Any person to be appointed as a school resource officer.

9 (b) The Rhode Island police officers commission on standards and training shall award a
10 certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course.

11 **45-69-4. Assignment of resource officers.**

12 (a) Every city's or town's chief law enforcement officer, or where no law enforcement
13 department has been established, the superintendent of the state police, in conjunction with each
14 local school committee shall assign at least one school resource officer for each middle school
15 and each high school.

16 (b) Factors considered in assignment of the school resource officer shall include, but not
17 be limited to:

18 (1) Fostering an optimal learning environment and educational community;

19 (2) Specialized training in child and adolescent development;

20 (3) Training in de-escalation and conflict resolution techniques with children and
21 adolescents;

22 (4) Experience and/or training in behavioral health disorders in children and adolescents;
23 and

24 (5) Experience and/or training in behavioral threat assessment methods.

25 **45-69-5. Duties.**

26 The chief law enforcement officer, after consultation with the school committee and
27 school administrators, shall provide detailed written instructions on the role and duties of each
28 school resource officer. A copy of the written instructions shall be kept in the office of the chief
29 school administrator for the assigned school.

30 **45-69-6. Review of performance.**

31 The performance of the school resource officers shall be reviewed annually by the school
32 committee and the chief law enforcement officer.

33 **45-69-7. Law enforcement powers.**

34 A school resource officer has and shall exercise the power to make arrests for violation of

1 law on school property and to arrest persons, whether on or off such property, who violate any
2 law on school property under the same conditions as sworn law enforcement officers. School
3 resource officers shall have the authority to carry weapons when performing their official duties.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES - ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICERS

- 1 This act would establish a program for the training and assignment of school resource
- 2 officers to middle and high schools.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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