

1 HB298  
2 156902-1  
3 By Representative Coleman-Evans  
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education  
5 First Read: 21-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Currently, federal or local funds are used  
9 to provide for the hiring, training, and equipping  
10 of school resource officers in public schools.

11 This bill provides for one-half of the  
12 necessary funding for the hiring, training, and  
13 equipping of school resource officers from a  
14 designated funding source and the requirements,  
15 duties, and responsibilities of a school resource  
16 officer.

17  
18 A BILL  
19 TO BE ENTITLED  
20 AN ACT  
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22 To establish the School Resource Officers' Act; to  
23 provide for the funding necessary to hire, train, and equip  
24 school resource officers for every public school in  
25 participating school systems; to provide for the requirements,  
26 duties, and responsibilities of a school resource officer; and

1 to require the State Department of Education to implement and  
2 administer this act.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be  
5 cited as the School Resource Officers' Act of 2014.

6 Section 2. (a) When used in this act, the following  
7 terms shall have the following meanings:

8 (1) PROGRAM. The School Resource Officers' Program.

9 (2) SCHOOL. A public city or county K-12 school.

10 (3) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER. A law enforcement  
11 officer, as defined in Section 36-21-40, Code of Alabama 1975,  
12 who is employed by a public school system of the state.

13 (4) SCHOOL SYSTEM. A public city or county K-12  
14 school system, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, the  
15 Alabama School of Fine Arts, the Alabama High School of  
16 Mathematics and Science, and the Department of Youth Services  
17 School District.

18 Section 3. The Legislature finds that a need exists  
19 within the state to further ensure that all public K-12  
20 schools remain safe, secure, and effective places of learning.  
21 The Legislature further finds that ensuring safe, secure, and  
22 effective places of learning is best achieved with the help of  
23 school safety partners. Therefore, it is the intent of the  
24 Legislature to promote and support the placement of school  
25 resource officers in every public K-12 school and that  
26 placement of the resource officers be implemented and  
27 partially funded in legislation.

1           Section 4. There is established the School Resource  
2 Officers' Program. The primary purpose of this program is to  
3 make available one-half of the funding that is necessary to  
4 place school resource officers in public schools. Each school  
5 in the program within a participating school system shall  
6 receive an appropriation equal to one-half of the average  
7 school resource officer's salary plus benefits annually. The  
8 remaining one-half of the necessary funding shall be provided  
9 by the local school system which employs the school resource  
10 officer.

11           Section 5. (a) Local law enforcement officers  
12 assigned to or employed by local school systems shall satisfy  
13 all state and federal requirements to be a resource officer,  
14 including mandatory policy and procedural testing  
15 requirements, background checks, and periodic health and  
16 weapons exams. School resource officers shall also be required  
17 to attend continuing education courses and training sessions.

18           (b) A contract or memorandum of understanding  
19 entered into under subsection (a) shall state the nature and  
20 scope of a school resource officer's duties and  
21 responsibilities, including all of the following:

22           (1) The promotion of a safe and orderly school  
23 environment through the reduction of rule violations and crime  
24 within the school and on school property.

25           (2) Supporting school personnel in efforts to  
26 provide a safe, productive learning environment, including

1 enforcement of school rules and administration of school  
2 disciplinary policies.

3 (3) Assisting the local school system in the  
4 implementation of an emergency preparedness plan or a crisis  
5 intervention plan.

6 (4) Acting as a liaison between the local school  
7 system and local law enforcement agencies.

8 (5) Assisting school personnel in detecting and  
9 addressing instances of bullying, intimidation, harassment,  
10 and other types of threats to student safety, learning, and  
11 development.

12 Section 6. The State Department of Education shall  
13 lead, implement, provide oversight, and administer this act  
14 and shall adopt such rules as are necessary in accordance with  
15 an implementation plan.

16 Section 7. Passage and approval of this act is  
17 contingent upon passage of a proposed statewide constitutional  
18 amendment creating the Alabama Lottery Corporation with the  
19 net proceeds from the lottery dedicated to the Education Trust  
20 Fund for classroom instructional supplies, school resource  
21 officers, and scholarships.

22 Section 8. This act shall become effective on the  
23 first day of the third month following its passage and  
24 approval by the Governor, or by its otherwise becoming law.