

SENATE BILL 245

F1, E4

1lr1503

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – School Resource Officers – Requirements and Prohibitions**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a school resource officer from entering a school building
4 except under certain circumstances; requiring a school resource officer to conceal
5 certain firearms except under certain circumstances; requiring a school resource
6 officer to wear civilian clothing; prohibiting a school resource officer from
7 participating in the routine school discipline of a student; and generally relating to
8 requirements and prohibitions for school resource officers.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–1508
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

16
17 7–1508.

18 (a) (1) Each local school system shall designate a school safety coordinator.

19 (2) A designated school safety coordinator shall:

20 (i) Be certified by the Center; and

21 (ii) Serve as a liaison between the local school system, the local law
22 enforcement agency, and the Center.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) (i) On or before September 1, 2018, the Center, in consultation with
2 local school systems, shall:

3 1. Develop a specialized curriculum for use in training of
4 school resource officers and school security employees; and

5 2. Submit the curriculum to the Maryland Police Training
6 and Standards Commission for approval.

7 (ii) The specialized curriculum developed under this subsection shall
8 include training in:

9 1. De-escalation;

10 2. Disability awareness;

11 3. Maintaining a positive school climate;

12 4. Constructive interactions with students; and

13 5. Implicit bias and disability and diversity awareness with
14 specific attention to racial and ethnic disparities.

15 (iii) 1. The specialized curriculum developed under this
16 subsection may not go into effect until it is approved by the Maryland Police Training and
17 Standards Commission.

18 2. If the Maryland Police Training and Standards
19 Commission does not initially approve the specialized curriculum, the Center shall amend
20 the curriculum until it meets with the Commission's approval.

21 (2) On or before March 1, 2019, the Center shall develop and submit to the
22 Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission for approval a model training
23 program that meets the requirements of the curriculum approved under paragraph (1) of
24 this subsection.

25 (3) Each local law enforcement agency shall:

26 (i) Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers in the
27 model training program developed by the Center under paragraph (2) of this subsection; or

28 (ii) 1. Submit to the Maryland Police Training and Standards
29 Commission for approval a training program that is consistent with the curriculum
30 developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

31 2. Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers

1 in the training program developed under item 1 of this item.

2 (4) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be assigned as a school resource officer
3 an individual shall:

4 (i) Complete:

5 1. The model training program developed by the Center
6 under paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in
7 collaboration with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or

8 2. A local law enforcement agency's training program
9 developed under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection; and

10 (ii) Be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards
11 Commission.

12 (5) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be employed as a school security
13 employee at a public school, an individual shall complete:

14 (i) The model training program developed by the Center under
15 paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in collaboration
16 with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or

17 (ii) A local law enforcement agency's training program developed
18 under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection.

19 (c) The Center shall collect data regarding the school resource officers in each
20 local school system, including:

21 (1) The number of full-time and part-time school resource officers
22 assigned to each elementary school, middle school, and high school; and

23 (2) Any other local school system employees or local law enforcement
24 officers who are fulfilling the role of a school resource officer.

25 (d) (1) On or before December 15, 2018, the Center, in collaboration with local
26 law enforcement agencies and local school systems, shall analyze the initial data collected
27 under subsection (c) of this section and develop guidelines to assist local school systems in:

28 (i) Identifying the appropriate number and assignment of school
29 resource officers, including supplemental coverage by local law enforcement agencies; and

30 (ii) Collaborating and communicating with local law enforcement
31 agencies.

32 (2) On or before July 1, 2019, each local school system, in consultation with

1 local law enforcement agencies, shall:

2 (i) Develop a plan to implement the guidelines developed by the
3 Center; and

4 (ii) Submit the plan to the Center for review and comment.

5 (e) (1) Before the 2018–2019 school year begins, each local school system shall
6 file a report with the Center identifying:

7 (i) The public high schools in the local school system’s jurisdiction
8 that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

9 (ii) If a public high school in the local school system’s jurisdiction is
10 not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that
11 will be provided to the public high school.

12 (2) Beginning with the 2019–2020 school year, and each school year
13 thereafter, before the school year begins, each local school system shall, in accordance with
14 the plan developed under subsection (d)(2) of this section, file a report identifying:

15 (i) The public schools in the local school system’s jurisdiction that
16 have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

17 (ii) If a public school in the local school system’s jurisdiction is not
18 assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be
19 provided to the public school.

20 (3) On or before October 1, 2018, and each October 1 thereafter, the Center
21 shall submit a summary of the reports required under this subsection to the Governor and,
22 in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

23 (f) (1) (i) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
24 **PARAGRAPH, A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MAY NOT ENTER A SCHOOL BUILDING.**

25 (ii) **A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MAY ENTER A SCHOOL**
26 **BUILDING:**

27 **1. IF SUMMONED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OR**
28 **OFFICIAL TO RESPOND TO AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING VIOLENCE OR THE THREAT**
29 **OF VIOLENCE;**

30 **2. TO PARTICIPATE IN SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION**
31 **SANCTIONED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OR OFFICIAL; OR**

32 **3. TO USE A RESTROOM IN THE BUILDING.**

1 **(2) UNLESS A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER IS RESPONDING TO AN**
2 **EMERGENCY INVOLVING VIOLENCE OR THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE, THE SCHOOL**
3 **RESOURCE OFFICER SHALL CONCEAL ANY FIREARMS CARRIED BY THE OFFICER.**

4 **(3) AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE CAMPUS OR INSIDE OF A SCHOOL, A**
5 **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SHALL WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHING.**

6 **(4) A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE**
7 **ROUTINE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE OF A STUDENT.**

8 **(5) Each local school system shall post on the school system's website**
9 **information on the role and authority of school resource officers assigned to public schools**
10 **within the school system.**

11 (g) (1) For fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall
12 appropriate in the annual State budget \$10,000,000 to the Fund for the purpose of
13 providing grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in
14 meeting the requirements of subsection (e) of this section.

15 (2) Grants provided under this subsection shall be made to each local
16 school system based on the number of schools in each school system in proportion to the
17 total number of public schools in the State in the prior year.

18 (h) (1) The Center shall collect data on incidents of use of force between:

19 (i) Any school resource officer and a student while a school resource
20 officer is carrying out the officer's duties; and

21 (ii) Any school security employee and a student while the school
22 security employee is carrying out the employee's duties.

23 (2) On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the
24 Center shall submit a report on the data collected under paragraph (1) of this subsection
25 for each jurisdiction, in accordance with federal and State law, to the Governor and, in
26 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2021.