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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 1629

02/25/2019 Authored by Richardson, Hansen and Lee
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing requirements for school resource officers;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 121A.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. 121A.275] SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Role within school setting. A school resource officer (SRO) supports
1.7 and facilitates the educational process in a school district by providing a safe and secure
1.8 environment, establishing meaningful relationships with students and staff, and proactively
1.9 interacting with the school community to ensure the enforcement of state and local laws.
1.10 An SRO is responsible for preserving public order, protecting life, and preventing, detecting,
1.11 or investigating crime. An SRO must work effectively with students, parents, school
1.12 personnel, and community agencies to support teaching and learning in schools. An SRO
1.13 must patrol district property to protect students, staff, and visitors from physical harm and
1.14 prevent loss to district property resulting from criminal activity. An SRO must not arrest
1.15 students for disciplinary issues that would be handled by a teacher or administrator if there
1.16 was not an SRO working in the school.

1.17 Subd. 2. Memorandum of understanding. A school district that contracts for peace
1.18 officer services in the district's schools must maintain a memorandum of understanding
1.19 with the law enforcement agency regarding the role of the SRO. The memorandum of
1.20 understanding must establish an agreement between both parties about the role of the SRO,
1.21 including:

1.22 (1) the relationship of the SRO and the school site administrators;

2.1 (2) a method to report complaints about the SRO to the law enforcement agency and a
2.2 meaningful process for complaint resolution;

2.3 (3) documentation and reporting requirements requested by the school;

2.4 (4) information sharing, such as body-worn camera footage, in accordance with chapter
2.5 13;

2.6 (5) financial responsibility for SRO training;

2.7 (6) day-to-day duties of the SRO;

2.8 (7) expectations of attendance at extracurricular activities and compensation for
2.9 attendance; and

2.10 (8) additional SRO training requirements.

2.11 Subd. 3. **SRO training.** (a) An SRO must be trained on school-based policing, in addition
2.12 to other peace officer training requirements, before initial placement with the school district.
2.13 The SRO must receive at least 40 hours of initial training for a period not to exceed three
2.14 months. The law enforcement agency is responsible for ensuring that the SRO is appropriately
2.15 trained for school placement. Unless another agreement is established in the memorandum
2.16 of understanding under subdivision 2, the law enforcement agency and the school district
2.17 must split the expense of training the SRO.

2.18 (b) The SRO training may be in-person or online. SRO training topics must include
2.19 community policing in schools, legal issues, cultural fluency, problem solving, safe school
2.20 preparation, child development, mental health intervention, restorative justice practices,
2.21 teaching, and classroom management strategies. At the end of training, the SRO must
2.22 demonstrate mastery of skills taught during training. After the initial training, an SRO must
2.23 receive a lesser amount of additional training each year to continue working as an SRO.
2.24 Parties to the memorandum of understanding under subdivision 2 must determine the amount
2.25 of additional SRO training required after the initial training.

2.26 Subd. 4. **School administrator training.** A principal or other person with general
2.27 administrative control and supervision of a school building where an SRO is assigned must
2.28 complete one hour of training each year on the role of school administrators as it relates to
2.29 the role of the SRO. The school district is responsible to ensure that principals are trained.

2.30 Subd. 5. **Reporting.** An SRO must report monthly to the school principal on school-based
2.31 arrests, referrals to law enforcement, and criminal complaint filings. A school board must
2.32 report this information along with other student disciplinary data to the commissioner
2.33 according to section 121A.53, subdivision 2.