

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 2657

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 15, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOAN VOSS

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Connors and Senator Madden

SYNOPSIS

Requires Police Training Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop training course for safe schools resource officers and school liaisons to law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the General Assembly.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2005)

1 **AN ACT** concerning training for safe schools resource officers and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: many New Jersey public
9 schools employ a safe schools resource officer or, in conjunction with
10 local law enforcement agencies, assign a law enforcement officer to
11 serve as a safe schools resource officer, or assign a school employee
12 to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement; most safe schools
13 resource officers perform many roles, including law enforcement
14 officer, law-related counselor and law-related education teacher; every
15 safe schools resource officer works with and among pupils, teachers
16 and administrators, and many also work with parents; by virtue of their
17 daily interaction with pupils, safe schools resource officers invariably
18 make a strong, early impression of the institution of law enforcement;
19 the job of safe schools resource officer involves great responsibility
20 and highly specialized skills; and the State should provide
21 comprehensive and consistent training for those individuals entrusted
22 with these responsibilities.

23
24 2. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal
25 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation
26 with the Attorney General, shall develop a training course for safe
27 schools resource officers and public school employees assigned by a
28 board of education to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement.
29 The Attorney General, in conjunction with the Police Training
30 Commission, shall ensure that the training course is developed within
31 180 days of the effective date of this act. The course shall at a
32 minimum provide comprehensive and consistent training in current
33 school resource officer practices and concepts. The course shall be
34 made available to:

35 (1) any law enforcement officer or public school employee
36 referred by the board of education of the public school to which
37 assignment as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
38 enforcement is sought; and

39 (2) any safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
40 enforcement assigned to a public school prior to the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill).

42 b. The training course developed by the commission pursuant to
43 subsection a. of this section shall be offered at each school approved
44 by the commission to provide police training courses pursuant to the
45 provisions of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.). The commission
46 shall ensure that an individual assigned to instruct the course is

1 proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices
2 and concepts.

3 c. The commission shall award a certificate to each individual who
4 successfully completes the course.

5 d. The Police Training Commission, in consultation with the
6 Commissioner of Education, shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
7 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
8 et seq.), to implement the provisions of this section.

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10 3. a. Following the development of the training course pursuant
11 to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
12 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
13 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
14 assign a safe schools resource officer to a public school unless that
15 individual first completes the safe schools resource officer training
16 course.

17 b. Following the development of the training course pursuant to
18 subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
19 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
20 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
21 assign an employee to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement
22 unless that individual first completes the safe schools resource officer
23 training course.

24 c. A person who is assigned to a public school as a safe schools
25 resource officer prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (now
26 pending before the Legislature as this bill) or assigned to serve as a
27 school liaison to law enforcement prior to that date shall not be
28 required to complete the safe schools resource officer training course
29 developed by the Police Training Commission pursuant to subsection
30 a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature
31 as this bill), but may in accordance with that section.

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33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38 This floor substitute requires the Police Training Commission in
39 the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public
40 Safety, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop a
41 training course for safe schools resource officers and public school
42 employees assigned by a board of education to serve as a school
43 liaison to law enforcement. The substitute directs the Attorney
44 General, in conjunction with the Police Training Commission, to
45 ensure that the training course is developed within 180 days of the
46 substitute's effective date.

1 Under the substitute, the course will provide comprehensive and
2 consistent training in current school resource officer practices and
3 concepts. The course will be made available to (1) any law
4 enforcement officer or public school employee referred by the board
5 of education of the public school to which assignment as a safe schools
6 resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is sought, or (2)
7 any individual assigned prior to the effective date of the substitute to
8 serve as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
9 enforcement in a public school. Under the substitute, the commission
10 will award a certificate to each individual who successfully completes
11 the course. Additionally, the commission will ensure that an individual
12 assigned to instruct the course is proficient and experienced in current
13 school resource officer practices and concepts.

14 Following the development of the course or 180 days following the
15 substitute's effective date, whichever occurs first, a board of education
16 will be prohibited from assigning an individual to serve in a school as
17 a safe schools resource officer or a school liaison to law enforcement
18 unless the individual first successfully completes the training program.
19 This requirement will not, however, apply to an individual assigned
20 prior to effective date of the substitute, although the training course
21 will be available to such persons.

22 Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer
23 permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law
24 enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education
25 teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools
26 resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their
27 rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between
28 law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations
29 occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison
30 between students and social service agencies, to assist school
31 administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and
32 to assist with school activities.