
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5355 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a local or regional school board that assigns a sworn police officer to a school (i.e., school resource officer) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local police department or the Division of State Police that defines the officer's role and responsibilities. The MOU must address daily interactions among students, school personnel, and police officers, and can include a graduated response model for student discipline (see BACKGROUND).

By law, each local and regional school board must submit to the education commissioner an annual strategic school profile (SSP) with certain required data (e.g., student performance) for each of its schools and the district as a whole. The bill requires the data to also include measures of (1) in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and (2) school-based arrests.

The bill requires the State Department of Education to (1) disaggregate school-based arrest information by school, race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, and offense type and (2) make it available through the public school information system. This system is a student-tracking database that protects individual confidentiality, yet makes aggregated information available for limited purposes.

*House Amendment "A" strikes a provision of the bill that authorized school boards to take an action already mandated by the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

SCHOOL-BASED ARRESTS

Definition

The bill defines a “school-based arrest” as an arrest, on school property during the school day or at a school-sponsored activity on or off school property, of a student enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education responsible for submitting the SSP. It defines measures of school-based arrests as the number of arrests made that year at each school in the district.

BACKGROUND

Graduated Response Model

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, which advises the governor and the Office of Policy and Management on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, developed a model MOU for use between districts and police departments. The graduated response model in its MOU contains guidelines on classroom intervention; school administrative intervention, assessment, and service provision; and law enforcement intervention.

Related Bill

sSB 54, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, contains the same provisions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 3 (03/19/2014)