

REFERENCE TITLE: school resource officers; veterans; retirees

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1469

Introduced by
Senator Kern

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-154 AND 15-155, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
SCHOOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-154, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-154. School safety program; purpose; program proposals;
5 requirements; annual report; definitions

6 A. The school safety program is established within the department
7 of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning
8 environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school
9 resource officers, juvenile probation officers, school counselors and
10 school social workers on school campuses. A school district or charter
11 school may apply to participate in the school safety program as provided
12 in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by April 15 a
13 program proposal to the department of education. A school district or
14 charter school that receives approval for a three-year program under this
15 subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its approved
16 program.

17 B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
18 school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers or
19 juvenile probation officers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

20 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
21 school or school district.

22 2. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a
23 plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as
24 a school safety prevention strategy.

25 3. A plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile
26 probation officers in the school, or both.

27 4. If the school district or charter school has already
28 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
29 compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

30 C. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
31 school for supporting the costs of placing school counselors or school
32 social workers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

33 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
34 school or school district.

35 2. A plan for implementing a school guidance and counseling program
36 that includes the following:

37 (a) A detailed description of the relationship between the school
38 counselor or the social worker, or both, and local community resources.

39 (b) A plan for using school counselor and school social worker
40 services in the school, or both.

41 (c) A detailed description of the methods for evaluating the
42 effectiveness of the school guidance and counseling plan.

43 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school guidance and
44 counseling plan.

1 (e) Policies on notifying parents and other family members of
2 issues or concerns as identified in the school guidance and counseling
3 plan.

4 (f) A detailed description of the school's, school district's or
5 charter school's referral procedures to the appropriate community entities
6 and state agencies.

7 3. If the school district or charter school has already
8 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
9 compliance and implementation of the most recent approved program
10 proposal.

11 D. The department of education shall review and administer the
12 school resource officers and juvenile probation officers program proposals
13 in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement agencies and law-related
14 education providers awarded a contract pursuant to section 41-2534,
15 subject to review and approval by the state board of education. The
16 department of education shall use relevant crime statistics to assess the
17 needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts and
18 charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
19 information contained in the program proposals. The department of
20 education shall contract to provide guidelines, curricula and support
21 resources for school resource officers and juvenile probation officers to
22 use in implementing a law-related education program.

23 E. The department of education shall review and administer the
24 school counselors and school social workers program proposals in
25 cooperation with school administrators, principals, teachers, parents and
26 community mental health professionals. The department of education shall
27 use relevant school-level academic, social and emotional statistics to
28 assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts
29 and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
30 information contained in the program proposals.

31 F. The department of education, subject to the review and approval
32 of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the school
33 districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program
34 requirements and whose program proposals have been approved by the state
35 board of education.

36 G. The department of education shall review program proposals
37 submitted by school districts and charter schools for participation in the
38 school safety program and shall select school sites that are eligible to
39 receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant to this
40 section. The department of education may prioritize program proposals for
41 school resource officer and juvenile probation officer grants to school
42 districts and charter schools that have agreements to share the cost of
43 the school resource officer or juvenile probation officer with a law
44 enforcement agency or the courts.

1 H. The department of education shall evaluate the effectiveness of
2 all the approved program proposals submitted pursuant to subsections B and
3 C of this section within the school safety program and report on the
4 activities of the program and the participants in the school safety
5 program to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
6 representatives and the governor on or before November 1 of each year and
7 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. The
8 evaluation and report shall include survey results from participating
9 schools and data from participating schools on the impact of participating
10 in the school safety program. The department shall establish data
11 guidelines for school safety program participants to follow in reporting
12 pursuant to this subsection.

13 I. The school safety program established by this section shall
14 include a school safety program guidance manual adopted by the department
15 of education that requires a dispute resolution process to be included in
16 the service agreement between a school district or charter school that
17 submitted a program proposal and received a school resource officer grant
18 from the school safety program and the law enforcement agency that
19 provides services to the school district or charter school.

20 J. Any appropriations that are made to the department of education
21 for the approved program proposals within the school safety program are
22 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of
23 appropriations. All monies that are not used for an approved program
24 proposal within the school safety program during the fiscal year for which
25 the monies were appropriated revert to the department of education for
26 distribution to the program in the following fiscal year.

27 K. Monies received by a school district or charter school under the
28 SCHOOL SAFETY program shall be spent to implement the approved program
29 proposals.

30 L. The auditor general shall include the school safety program as
31 part of its ongoing sunset review of agencies and programs.

32 M. For the purposes of this section:

33 1. "Law-related education" means interactive education to equip
34 children and youth with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, school
35 safety and effective citizenship.

36 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to
37 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities
38 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding
39 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging
40 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive
41 citizens.

42 3. "School counselor" means a professional educator who holds a
43 valid school counselor certificate issued by the department of education.

1 4. "School guidance and counseling program" means a counseling
2 program that supports, promotes and enhances the academic, personal,
3 social, emotional and career development of all students.

4 5. "School resource officer" means ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

5 (a) A peace officer. ~~or~~

6 (b) A full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the
7 Arizona peace officer standards and training board.

8 (c) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED AS A PEACE OFFICER,
9 WHO RETIRED IN GOOD STANDING AND WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE ARIZONA PEACE
10 OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD.

11 (d) A VETERAN AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-1911 WHO IS CERTIFIED BY THE
12 ARIZONA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD.

13 6. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a
14 valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of
15 education.

16 Sec. 2. Section 15-155, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
17 read:

18 15-155. School safety program; funding

19 A. The department of education shall cooperate with the county
20 school superintendent, the county sheriff and the local chief of police to
21 allow a law enforcement agency, with the consent of the school, to assign
22 a ~~peace officer or a full authority Arizona peace officer standards and~~
23 ~~training board certified reserve peace officer~~ SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AS
24 DEFINED IN SECTION 15-154 to participate in the school safety program in
25 each school in the county. The cost of the ~~peace~~ SCHOOL RESOURCE officer
26 is a state charge that is funded by the department of education, except
27 for agreements to share the cost of the school resource officer pursuant
28 to section 15-154, subsection G.

29 B. In cooperation with the department of education and the county
30 school superintendent and with the consent of the school, the presiding
31 judge of the juvenile court may assign juvenile probation officers to
32 participate in the school safety program in each school in the
33 county. The cost of juvenile probation officers is a state charge that is
34 funded by the department of education, except for agreements to share the
35 cost of the juvenile probation officer pursuant to section 15-154,
36 subsection G.