

1                   **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AMENDMENTS**

2                                   2021 GENERAL SESSION

3                                   STATE OF UTAH

4                           **Chief Sponsor: Sandra Hollins**

5                           Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9           This bill amends provisions relating to a local education agency's ability to contract  
10 with a law enforcement agency for school resource officer services.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12           This bill:

13           ▶ amends provisions related to a training that statute requires the State Board of  
14 Education to prepare and make available, including:  
15           • broadening the intended audience;  
16           • requiring rather than suggesting specific content; and  
17           • adding certain additional content;  
18           ▶ places conditions on the ability of a local education agency (LEA) to contract with a  
19 law enforcement agency for school resource officer services, including requiring:

- 20           • that the contract procure services in secondary schools;
- 21           • governing board review of the contract;
- 22           • the collection of certain information by the LEA; and
- 23           • a biennial review of certain policies and information; and

24           ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

25 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

26           None

27 **Other Special Clauses:**



28 None

29 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 AMENDS:

31 **53G-8-702**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 408

32 **53G-8-703**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 293



34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **53G-8-702** is amended to read:

36 **53G-8-702. School resource officer training -- Curriculum.**

37 (1) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
38 state board shall make rules that prepare and make available a training program for school  
39 principals, school personnel, and school resource officers to attend.

40 (2) To create the curriculum and materials for the training program described in  
41 Subsection (1), the state board shall:

42 (a) work in conjunction with the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice  
43 created in Section **63M-7-201**;

44 (b) solicit input from local school boards, charter school governing boards, and the  
45 Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind;

46 (c) solicit input from local law enforcement and other interested community  
47 stakeholders; and

48 (d) consider the current United States Department of Education recommendations on  
49 school discipline and the role of a school resource officer.

50 (3) The training program described in Subsection (1) [~~may~~] shall include training on  
51 the following:

52 (a) childhood and adolescent development;

53 (b) responding age-appropriately to students;

54 (c) working with disabled students;

55 (d) techniques to de-escalate and resolve conflict;

56 (e) cultural awareness;

57 (f) restorative justice practices;

58 (g) identifying a student exposed to violence or trauma and referring the student to

59 appropriate resources;

60 (h) student privacy rights;

61 (i) negative consequences associated with youth involvement in the juvenile and  
62 criminal justice systems;

63 (j) strategies to reduce juvenile justice involvement; ~~and~~

64 (k) roles of and distinctions between a school resource officer and other school staff  
65 who help keep a school secure[-];

66 (l) developing and supporting successful relationships with students; and

67 (m) constitutional parameters of searching and questioning students on school  
68 property.

69 (4) The state board shall work together with the Department of Public Safety, the State  
70 Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and state and local law enforcement to establish  
71 policies and procedures that govern student resource officers.

72 Section 2. Section **53G-8-703** is amended to read:

73 **53G-8-703. Contracts between an LEA and law enforcement for school resource**  
74 **officer services -- Requirements.**

75 (1) (a) An LEA may contract with a law enforcement agency or an individual to  
76 provide school resource officer services at the LEA only if:

77 (i) the purpose of the contract is to provide school resource officer services to  
78 secondary schools;

79 (ii) the LEA governing board reviews and approves the contract[-]; and

80 (iii) beginning on July 1, 2023, the LEA creates a policy or includes provisions in the  
81 contract to collect, maintain, and provide to the LEA governing board the following  
82 information:

83 (A) the purpose for having school resource officer services;

84 (B) measurable performance metrics related to meeting the purpose for having school  
85 resource officer services;

86 (C) the steps the LEA and school resource officer took before an arrest or disciplinary  
87 action;

88 (D) the individual or agency who initiated an arrest referral or disciplinary action; and

89 (E) the information related to the LEA in the report described in Section [53E-3-516](#).

90           **(b) At least once every two calendar years, an LEA governing board shall review:**  
91           **(i) the LEA governing board's policies on instruction described in this section; and**  
92           **(ii) (A) for a school district, the information described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii) for each**  
93 **county in which the school district is located; or**  
94           **(B) for a charter school, the information described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii) for the**  
95 **county in which the charter school is located.**

96           (2) If an LEA contracts with a law enforcement agency or an individual to provide  
97 SRO services at the LEA, the LEA governing board shall require in the contract:

98           (a) an acknowledgment by the law enforcement agency or the individual that an SRO  
99 hired under the contract shall:

100           (i) provide for and maintain a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment in a  
101 school;

102           (ii) act as a positive role model to students;

103           (iii) work to create a cooperative, proactive, and problem-solving partnership between  
104 law enforcement and the LEA;

105           (iv) emphasize the use of restorative approaches to address negative behavior; and

106           (v) at the request of the LEA, teach a vocational law enforcement class;

107           (b) a description of the shared understanding of the LEA and the law enforcement  
108 agency or individual regarding the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement and the LEA  
109 to:

110           (i) maintain safe schools;

111           (ii) improve school climate; and

112           (iii) support educational opportunities for students;

113           (c) a designation of student offenses that the SRO shall confer with the LEA to resolve,  
114 including an offense that:

115           (i) is a minor violation of the law; and

116           (ii) would not violate the law if the offense was committed by an adult;

117           (d) a designation of student offenses that are administrative issues that an SRO shall  
118 refer to a school administrator for resolution in accordance with Section [53G-8-211](#);

119           (e) a detailed description of the constitutional rights of [~~a student~~] students under state  
120 and federal law with regard to:

- 121 (i) searches;
- 122 (ii) questioning; and
- 123 (iii) information privacy;
- 124 (f) a detailed description of:
  - 125 (i) job duties;
  - 126 (ii) training requirements; and
  - 127 (iii) other expectations of the SRO and school administration in relation to law
  - 128 enforcement at the LEA;
- 129 (g) that an SRO who is hired under the contract and the principal at the school where
- 130 an SRO will be working, or the principal's designee, will jointly complete the SRO training
- 131 described in Section [53G-8-702](#); and
- 132 (h) if the contract is between an LEA and a law enforcement agency, that:
  - 133 (i) both parties agree to jointly discuss SRO applicants; and
  - 134 (ii) the law enforcement agency will accept feedback from an LEA about an SRO's
  - 135 performance.