HB182

147471-1

By Representative Coleman-Evans

RFD: Ways and Means Education

First Read: 07-FEB-13
SYNOPSIS: Currently, federal or local funds are used to provide for the hiring, training and equipping of school resource officers in public schools. This bill provides for one-half of the necessary funding for the hiring, training and equipping of school resource officers from a designated funding source and the requirements, duties and responsibilities of a school resource officer.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To establish the School Resource Officers' Act; to provide for the funding necessary to hire, train and equip school resource officers for every public school in participating school systems; to provide for the requirements, duties and responsibilities of a school resource officer; and
to require the State Department of Education to implement and
administer the provisions of this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may
be cited as the School Resource Officers' Act of 2013.

Section 2. (a) When used in this chapter, the
following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) PROGRAM. The School Resource Officers' Program
as provided in Section 4.

(2) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER. A law enforcement
officer as defined in Section 36-21-40 who is employed by a
public school system of the state.

(3) SCHOOL. Any county or city public school.

(4) SCHOOL SYSTEM. Any county or city public school
system, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, the Alabama
School of Fine Arts, the Alabama High School of Mathematics
and Science, and the Department of Youth Services School
District.

Section 3. The Legislature finds that a need exists
within the state to further ensure that all public K-12
schools remain safe, secure and effective places of learning.
The Legislature further finds that ensuring safe, secure and
effective places of learning is best achieved with the help of
school safety partners. Therefore, it is the intent of the
Legislature to promote and support the placement of school
resource officers in every public K-12 school and that
placement of the resource officers be implemented and
partially funded in legislation.

Section 4. (a) There is hereby established the
School Resource Officers' Program. The primary purpose of this
program is to make available one-half of the funding that is
necessary to place school resource officers in public schools.
Each school in the program within a participating school
system shall receive an appropriation equal to one-half of the
average school resource officer's salary plus benefits
annually. The remaining one-half of the necessary funding
shall be provided by the local school system which employs the
school resource officer.

Section 5. (a) School Resource Officers. Local law
enforcement officers assigned to or employed by local school
systems must meet all state and federal requirements to be a
resource officer, including meeting mandatory policy and
procedural testing requirements, background checks and
periodic health and weapons exams. School resource officers
shall also be required to attend continuing education courses
and training sessions.

(b) A contract or memorandum of understanding
entered into under subsection (a) must state the nature and
scope of a school resource officer's duties and
responsibilities, including the following:

(1) The promotion of a safe and orderly school
environment through the reduction of rule violations and crime
within the school and on school property.
(2) Supporting school personnel in efforts to provide a safe, productive learning environment, including enforcement of school rules and administration of school disciplinary policies.

(3) Assisting the local school system in the implementation of an emergency preparedness plan or a crisis intervention plan.

(4) Acting as a liaison between the local school system and local law enforcement agencies.

(5) Assisting school personnel in detecting and addressing instances of bullying, intimidation, harassment and other types of threats to student safety, learning and development.

Section 6. The State Department of Education shall lead, implement, provide oversight and administer this act and shall adopt such rules as are necessary in accordance with an implementation plan.

Section 7. Passage and approval of this act is contingent upon passage of a proposed Constitutional Amendment creating an Alabama Lottery Corporation with the net proceeds from the lottery dedicated to the Education Trust Fund for classroom instructional supplies, school resource officers and scholarships.

Section 8. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or by its otherwise becoming law.