

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H.B. 204  
Feb 28, 2017  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10087-MK-56 (01/25)

Short Title: School-Justice Partnership/Training SROs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pierce.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL-JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING IN JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY TO SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE OFFICERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.

In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education shall have the power or duty:

...  
(61) To Provide a Safe School Environment. – Local boards of education may enter into an agreement with the sheriff, chief of police of a local police department, or chief of police of a county police department to provide security at the schools by assigning volunteer school safety resource officers who meet the selection standards and criteria developed by the head of the appropriate local law enforcement agency and the criteria set out in G.S. 162-26 or G.S. 160A-288.4, as appropriate. The agreement shall incorporate elements of the school-justice partnership established in accordance with subdivision (61a) of this section, including addressing daily interactions between students, school personnel, and school safety resource officers, and a graduated response model for student discipline.

(61a) To Establish School-Justice Partnerships With Law Enforcement Agencies. – Each local board of education shall develop a school-justice partnership with local law enforcement agencies in the local school administrative unit with the goal of reducing rates of in-school arrests, expulsions, and out-of-school suspensions. The partnership shall focus on (i) providing connections for youth who are at risk of arrest to appropriate school- and community-based services and supports, (ii) building knowledge and skills among teachers, school staff, and school safety resource officers to recognize and manage behavioral health issues in the school and employ a graduated response to disciplinary actions, and (iii) entering into agreements with local law enforcement agencies to encourage and support diversion from the juvenile justice system without compromising school safety.

...."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-276(r) reads as rewritten:



\* D R H 1 0 0 8 7 - M K - 5 6 \*

1       "(r) To Maintain Student Discipline. – The superintendent shall maintain student discipline  
2 in accordance with Article 27 of this Chapter and shall keep data on each student to whom  
3 corporal punishment was administered, who was suspended for more than 10 days, who was  
4 reassigned for disciplinary reasons, who was arrested on school property, or who was expelled.  
5 This data shall include the race, gender, age, grade level, ethnicity, and disability status of each  
6 student, the duration of suspension for each student, whether alternative education services were  
7 provided for each student, and whether a student had multiple suspensions or arrests in that  
8 academic year."

9           **SECTION 3.** G.S. 160A-288.4 reads as rewritten:

10       "**§ 160A-288.4. Police chief may establish volunteer school safety resource officer program.**

11       (a) The chief of police of a local police department or of a county police department may  
12 establish a volunteer school safety resource officer program to provide nonsalaried special law  
13 enforcement officers to serve as school safety resource officers in public schools. To be a  
14 volunteer in the program, a person must have prior experience as either (i) a sworn law  
15 enforcement officer or (ii) a military police officer with a minimum of two years' service. If a  
16 person with experience as a military police officer is no longer in the armed services, the person  
17 must also have an honorable discharge. A program volunteer must receive training on ~~research~~  
18 into the social and cognitive development of elementary, middle, and high school children ~~juvenile~~  
19 justice issues and cultural competency in accordance with subsection (a1) of this section and must  
20 also meet the selection standards and any additional criteria established by the chief of police.

21       (a1) Volunteer school safety resource officers shall receive training developed by the North  
22 Carolina Justice Academy, in consultation with the Department of Justice, on juvenile justice  
23 issues and cultural competency including at least the following information:

- 24           (1) Social and cognitive development research for elementary, middle, and high  
25 school children.
- 26           (2) Behaviors, attitudes, and policies for school safety resource officers to promote  
27 understanding, effective communication, and positive interactions with the  
28 individuals and organizations in the community in which an officer serves.
- 29           (3) Behavioral health issues in schools and methods to employ a graduated  
30 response to disciplinary actions.
- 31           (4) Knowledge of governmental and community services available to help reduce  
32 juvenile arrests.
- 33           (5) School-justice partnerships between local school administrative units and law  
34 enforcement agencies.

35       ...."

36           **SECTION 4.** G.S. 162-26 reads as rewritten:

37       "**§ 162-26. Sheriff may establish volunteer school safety resource officer program.**

38       (a) The sheriff may establish a volunteer school safety resource officer program to provide  
39 nonsalaried special deputies to serve as school safety resource officers in public schools. To be a  
40 volunteer in the program, a person must have prior experience as either (i) a sworn law  
41 enforcement officer or (ii) a military police officer with a minimum of two years' service. If a  
42 person with experience as a military police officer is no longer in the armed services, the person  
43 must also have an honorable discharge. A program volunteer must receive training on ~~research~~  
44 into the social and cognitive development of elementary, middle, and high school children ~~juvenile~~  
45 justice issues and cultural competency in accordance with subsection (a1) of this section and must  
46 also meet the selection standards and any additional criteria established by the sheriff.

47       (a1) Volunteer school safety resource officers shall receive training developed by the North  
48 Carolina Justice Academy, in consultation with the Department of Justice, on juvenile justice  
49 issues and cultural competency including at least the following information:

- 50           (1) Social and cognitive development research for elementary, middle, and high  
51 school children.

- 1           (2)   Behaviors, attitudes, and policies for school safety resource officers to promote
- 2                   understanding, effective communication, and positive interactions with the
- 3                   individuals and organizations in the community in which an officer serves.
- 4           (3)   Behavioral health issues in schools and methods to employ a graduated
- 5                   response to disciplinary actions.
- 6           (4)   Knowledge of governmental and community services available to help reduce
- 7                   juvenile arrests.
- 8           (5)   School-justice partnerships between local school administrative units and law
- 9                   enforcement agencies.

10       ...."

11           **SECTION 5.** By January 1, 2018, the North Carolina Justice Academy, in  
12 consultation with the Department of Justice, shall develop a juvenile justice and cultural  
13 competency training program to be provided to volunteer school safety officers in accordance with  
14 G.S. 160A-288.4 and G.S. 162-26, as amended by this act.

15           **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the  
16 2018-2019 school year.