



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6535

LCO No. 3966



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUES RELATING TO SCHOOL SECURITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Education
2 shall convene a working group to examine the employment and role of
3 school resource officers in public schools and to develop
4 recommendations regarding whether school resource officers should
5 continue to be employed or assigned in public schools, and if so, what
6 their duties and role should be within the schools and community in
7 which they are assigned. For purposes of this section, "school resource
8 officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-233m of the
9 general statutes.

10 (b) The working group shall examine:

11 (1) Each memorandum of understanding entered into between a local
12 and regional board of education and the local law enforcement agency,
13 pursuant to section 10-233m of the general statutes, that outlines the role
14 and responsibility of school resource officers assigned to schools under
15 the jurisdiction of such board;

16 (2) The number and nature of instances of student discipline in which
17 a school resource officer was involved, and whether such instances
18 resulted in a student suspension, expulsion or school-based arrest, as
19 defined in section 10-233n of the general statutes;

20 (3) The degree of involvement in and relationship of the school
21 resource officer with the school community for which such school
22 resource officer is assigned beyond interactions involving student
23 discipline and school-based arrests;

24 (4) The amount of time a school resource officer is on school grounds
25 in his or her official capacity as a school resource officer;

26 (5) Whether the school resource officer is an employee of the local or
27 regional board of education or the local law enforcement agency;

28 (6) The cost, if any, to the local or regional board of education for
29 employing a school resource officer or assigning a school resource
30 officer pursuant to an agreement with a local law enforcement agency;

31 (7) The amount, frequency and nature of any training relating to
32 serving as a school resource officer that a school resource officer receives
33 prior to and while serving as a school resource officer;

34 (8) The grade levels to which a school resource officer is assigned; and

35 (9) Whether, on a state-wide, district and individual school level, a
36 correlation exists between a school's climate for student success and the
37 relationship established between local and regional boards of education
38 and school resource officers as outlined in the memorandum of
39 understanding described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and the
40 factors described in subdivisions (2) to (8), inclusive, of this subsection.

41 (c) The working group shall consist of the following members:

42 (1) Two designated by the Connecticut Association of Boards of
43 Education, one of whom is a member of a board of education for a school
44 district that employs a school resource officer and one of whom is a

45 member of a board of education for a school district that assigns a school
46 resource officer to one or more schools under its jurisdiction, but such
47 school resource officer is employed by the local law enforcement
48 agency;

49 (2) Two designated by the Connecticut Association of Public School
50 Superintendents, one of whom is a superintendent of schools for an
51 urban school district that makes use of one or more school resource
52 officers and one of whom is a superintendent of schools for a rural or
53 suburban school district that makes use of one or more school resource
54 officers;

55 (3) Two designated by the Connecticut Association of School
56 Administrators who are administrators of schools in which a school
57 resource officer is assigned;

58 (4) One designated by the Connecticut Education Association who is
59 a teacher in a school in which a school resource officer is assigned;

60 (5) One designated by the American Federation of Teachers-
61 Connecticut who is a teacher in a school in which a school resource
62 officer is assigned;

63 (6) Six designated by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, two
64 of whom are police chiefs for local law enforcement agencies that have
65 entered into a memorandum of understanding with a local or regional
66 board of education for purpose of assigning school resource officers to
67 schools in the school district, two of whom are school resource officers
68 in urban school districts and two of whom are school resource officers
69 in rural or suburban school districts; and

70 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

71 (d) All designations to the working group shall be made not later than
72 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
73 filled by the designating authority.

74 (e) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,

75 shall serve as the chairperson of the working group. The chairperson
76 shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be
77 held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

78 (f) Not later than January 1, 2022, the working group shall submit a
79 report on its findings and any recommendations for revisions to the
80 equalization aid grant formula to the joint standing committee of the
81 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
82 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
83 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such
84 report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

85 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The School Safety Infrastructure
86 Council, established pursuant to section 10-292r of the general statutes,
87 shall conduct a study to determine whether classroom doors that can be
88 locked from the inside and outside of the classroom should be included
89 in school safety infrastructure criteria, developed pursuant to
90 subsection (b) of section 10-292r of the general statutes. Not later than
91 January 1, 2022, the council shall submit a report on its findings and
92 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
93 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
94 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

95 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than July 1, 2022, the
96 Department of Education shall develop a state-wide plan for
97 responding to large-scale school crisis events. Such plan shall include,
98 but need not be limited to, cooperation with other education and
99 behavioral health agencies, provisions specifying short and long-term
100 interventions for different student populations and identifying funding
101 mechanisms that will minimize discontinuity of services. The
102 department shall submit such plan to the joint standing committees of
103 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
104 education and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section
105 11-4a of the general statutes.

106 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-222m of the general statutes is

107 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 108 *2021*):

109 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall annually submit
 110 the school security and safety plan for each school under the jurisdiction
 111 of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to
 112 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. For the
 113 school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year thereafter,
 114 the department shall conduct random audits, including unannounced
 115 site visits to schools, to ensure that the school security and safety plans
 116 are being developed and submitted in accordance with the provisions
 117 of this section and being implemented in accordance with the provisions
 118 of such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-222m(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) convene a working group to examine the employment and role of school resource officers in public schools, (2) conduct a study to determine whether classroom doors that can be locked from the inside and outside of the classroom should be included in school safety infrastructure criteria, (3) require the Department of Education to develop a state-wide plan for responding to large-scale school crisis events, and (4) require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to conduct random audits to ensure that the school security and safety plans are being developed and implemented in schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]