

52:17B-71.8

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2005 **CHAPTER:** 276

NJSA: 52:17B-71.8 (Concerns training for safe schools resource officers)

BILL NO: A2657 (Substituted for S2162)

SPONSOR(S): Voss and others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 6, 2004

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** December 13, 2004

SENATE: December 15, 2005

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 6, 2006

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (Assembly Substitute for A2657 enacted)

A2657

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#)

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S2162

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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HEARINGS:

No

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No

IS 12/20/07

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 276, *approved January 6, 2006*
Assembly Substitute for
Assembly, No. 2657

1 **AN ACT** concerning training for safe schools resource officers and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52
3 of the Revised Statutes

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: many New Jersey public
9 schools employ a safe schools resource officer or, in conjunction with
10 local law enforcement agencies, assign a law enforcement officer to
11 serve as a safe schools resource officer, or assign a school employee
12 to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement; most safe schools
13 resource officers perform many roles, including law enforcement
14 officer, law-related counselor and law-related education teacher; every
15 safe schools resource officer works with and among pupils, teachers
16 and administrators, and many also work with parents; by virtue of their
17 daily interaction with pupils, safe schools resource officers invariably
18 make a strong, early impression of the institution of law enforcement;
19 the job of safe schools resource officer involves great responsibility
20 and highly specialized skills; and the State should provide
21 comprehensive and consistent training for those individuals entrusted
22 with these responsibilities.

23

24 2. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal
25 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation
26 with the Attorney General, shall develop a training course for safe
27 schools resource officers and public school employees assigned by a
28 board of education to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement.
29 The Attorney General, in conjunction with the Police Training
30 Commission, shall ensure that the training course is developed within
31 180 days of the effective date of this act. The course shall at a
32 minimum provide comprehensive and consistent training in current
33 school resource officer practices and concepts. The course shall be
34 made available to:

35 (1) any law enforcement officer or public school employee
36 referred by the board of education of the public school to which
37 assignment as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
38 enforcement is sought; and

39 (2) any safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
40 enforcement assigned to a public school prior to the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill).

42 b. The training course developed by the commission pursuant to

1 subsection a. of this section shall be offered at each school approved
2 by the commission to provide police training courses pursuant to the
3 provisions of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.). The commission
4 shall ensure that an individual assigned to instruct the course is
5 proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices
6 and concepts.

7 c. The commission shall award a certificate to each individual who
8 successfully completes the course.

9 d. The Police Training Commission, in consultation with the
10 Commissioner of Education, shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
11 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
12 et seq.), to implement the provisions of this section.

13
14 3. a. Following the development of the training course pursuant
15 to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
16 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
17 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
18 assign a safe schools resource officer to a public school unless that
19 individual first completes the safe schools resource officer training
20 course.

21 b. Following the development of the training course pursuant to
22 subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
23 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
24 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
25 assign an employee to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement
26 unless that individual first completes the safe schools resource officer
27 training course.

28 c. A person who is assigned to a public school as a safe schools
29 resource officer prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (now
30 pending before the Legislature as this bill) or assigned to serve as a
31 school liaison to law enforcement prior to that date shall not be
32 required to complete the safe schools resource officer training course
33 developed by the Police Training Commission pursuant to subsection
34 a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature
35 as this bill), but may in accordance with that section.

36
37 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
38
39

40 STATEMENT
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42 This floor substitute requires the Police Training Commission in
43 the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public
44 Safety, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop a
45 training course for safe schools resource officers and public school
46 employees assigned by a board of education to serve as a school

1 liaison to law enforcement. The substitute directs the Attorney
2 General, in conjunction with the Police Training Commission, to
3 ensure that the training course is developed within 180 days of the
4 substitute's effective date.

5 Under the substitute, the course will provide comprehensive and
6 consistent training in current school resource officer practices and
7 concepts. The course will be made available to (1) any law
8 enforcement officer or public school employee referred by the board
9 of education of the public school to which assignment as a safe schools
10 resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is sought, or (2)
11 any individual assigned prior to the effective date of the substitute to
12 serve as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
13 enforcement in a public school. Under the substitute, the commission
14 will award a certificate to each individual who successfully completes
15 the course. Additionally, the commission will ensure that an individual
16 assigned to instruct the course is proficient and experienced in current
17 school resource officer practices and concepts.

18 Following the development of the course or 180 days following the
19 substitute's effective date, whichever occurs first, a board of education
20 will be prohibited from assigning an individual to serve in a school as
21 a safe schools resource officer or a school liaison to law enforcement
22 unless the individual first successfully completes the training program.
23 This requirement will not, however, apply to an individual assigned
24 prior to effective date of the substitute, although the training course
25 will be available to such persons.

26 Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer
27 permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law
28 enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education
29 teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools
30 resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their
31 rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between
32 law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations
33 occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison
34 between students and social service agencies, to assist school
35 administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and
36 to assist with school activities.

37

38

39

40

41 Requires Police Training Commission, in consultation with the
42 Attorney General, to develop training course for safe schools resource
43 officers and school liaisons to law enforcement.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2657

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOAN VOSS

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblyman CRAIG A. STANLEY

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Safe Schools Resource Officer Training Academy.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2004)

1 AN ACT establishing the Safe Schools Resource Officer Training
2 Academy in the Office of the Attorney General and supplementing
3 chapter 17B of Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. There is established in the Office of the Attorney General in the
9 Department of Law and Public Safety the Safe Schools Resource
10 Officer Training Academy. The Safe Schools Resource Officer
11 Training Academy shall provide local law enforcement agencies and
12 public school districts with an optional State-administered training and
13 certification program for safe schools resource officers and for school
14 district liasons to law enforcement.

15
16 2. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
17 Education, shall develop academy curricula for the training of safe
18 schools resource officers and school district liasons to law
19 enforcement, criteria for admission to the academy, and standards for
20 certification by the Attorney General that the attendee has successfully
21 completed academy training.

22 The Attorney General shall appoint faculty for the Safe Schools
23 Resource Officer Training Academy. Faculty members shall be
24 proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices
25 and concepts.

26
27 3. An applicant for admission to the Safe Schools Resource Officer
28 Training Academy as a safe schools resource officer shall be a law
29 enforcement officer employed in good standing by a local law
30 enforcement agency. An applicant for admission to the academy as a
31 school district liason to law enforcement shall be an employee in good
32 standing of a public school district. An applicant shall be referred to
33 the academy by the local law enforcement agency or board of
34 education by which the applicant is employed.

35
36 4. The Attorney General and the Commissioner of Education shall
37 apply for all available federal funding for the Safe Schools Resource
38 Officer Training Academy.

39
40 5. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
41 Education and pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
42 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations
43 to implement the provisions of this act. The rules and regulations shall
44 contain, at a minimum, the following components:

45 a. a procedure to determine whether an applicant is eligible for
46 admission to the academy;

1 b. a procedure to notify an applicant and the local law enforcement
2 agency or board of education which referred the applicant of the
3 applicant's admission or denial of admission to the academy, as may be
4 appropriate, within 90 days of receipt of a properly submitted
5 application;

6 c. procedures for the administration of academy curriculum and
7 instruction, which may be conducted through distance learning or at
8 regional centers;

9 d. the establishment of a certificate, which shall bear the seals of
10 the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Department of
11 Education, to be presented to a graduate of the academy determined
12 to be eligible for certification; and

13 e. procedures for the management of academy property and
14 financial resources; for the collection and maintenance of academy
15 data and records; and for the collection and compilation of statistical
16 information about the academy.

17

18 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to preclude a district from
19 appointing a safe schools resource officer without referral to or
20 certification by the academy or from acting in accordance with any
21 other law or regulation.

22

23 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

STATEMENT

25

26
27 This bill establishes the Safe Schools Resource Officer Training
28 Academy. The academy would provide local law enforcement
29 agencies and public school districts with an optional State-
30 administered training and certification program for safe schools
31 resource officers and for school district liaisons to law enforcement.

32 Although the duties of safe schools resource officers vary from
33 district to district, a safe schools resource officer ("SRO") is generally
34 a police officer who is permanently assigned to a school or set of
35 schools to serve as a law enforcement officer, law-related counselor,
36 and law-related education teacher. SROs work closely with teachers,
37 administrators, parents, and students. In addition to their regular law
38 enforcement duties, SROs help educate pupils on their rights and
39 responsibilities under the law; serve as a liaison between law
40 enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations
41 occurring in a school or on school property; serve as a liaison between
42 students and social service agencies; assist administration and faculty
43 in developing criminal justice programs; and assist with school
44 activities. SROs also help to define for young people the relationship
45 between themselves, as community members, and law enforcement.
46 The job involves great responsibility and highly specialized skills.

1 This bill creates a State-approved training and certification
2 program--for SROs and for school district employees whom districts
3 appoint to serve as liasons to law enforcement. The academy would
4 be created in the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of
5 Law and Public Safety. The Attorney General, in consultation with
6 the Commissioner of Education, would develop academy training
7 curricula, criteria for admission to the academy, and standards for
8 certification by the Attorney General that the attendee has successfully
9 completed academy training. The Attorney General would appoint
10 qualified faculty for the Safe Schools Resource Officer Training
11 Academy. Under the bill, academy faculty are required to be
12 proficient in current SRO practices and concepts. The Attorney
13 General and the commissioner would apply for all available federal
14 funding for the academy.

15 The bill requires that an applicant be a law enforcement officer in
16 good standing with a local law enforcement agency or an employee, in
17 good standing, of a public school district. Additionally, an applicant
18 must be referred to the academy by the local law enforcement agency
19 or public school board of education by which he or she is employed
20 and must meet all admission criteria established by the Attorney
21 General under the bill.

22 The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
23 Education, would be responsible for adopting rules and regulations to
24 implement the bill's provisions. At a minimum, the Attorney General
25 would be required to set procedures for: determining an applicant's
26 eligibility for admission to the academy; notifying an applicant and the
27 local law enforcement agency or board of education which referred the
28 applicant of the applicant's admission or denial of admission to the
29 academy; administering academy curriculum and instruction through
30 distance learning or at regional centers; establishing a certificate which
31 would be presented to a graduate of the academy determined to be
32 eligible for certification; managing academy faculty and staff;
33 managing academy property, financial resources, records, and data;
34 and compiling statistical facts about the academy.

35 The bill specifies that instruction and certification of school
36 resource officers by the academy is to be an option for public school
37 districts and local law enforcement agencies, not a requirement. The
38 bill does not preclude a district from appointing a safe schools
39 resource officer without referral to or certification by the academy; nor
40 does it preclude a district from acting in accordance with any other
41 law or regulation.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2657

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 2004

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2657.

This bill establishes the Safe Schools Resource Officer Training Academy in the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety. The academy would provide local law enforcement agencies and public school districts with an optional State-administered training and certification program for safe schools resource officers and for school district liaisons to law enforcement. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, would develop academy training curricula, criteria for admission to the academy, and standards for certification by the Attorney General that the attendee has successfully completed academy training. The Attorney General would appoint qualified faculty for the academy, and with the commissioner would apply for all available federal funding for the academy.

The bill requires an applicant to the academy (1) to be employed in good standing by a local law enforcement agency or public school district, (2) to be referred to the academy by that local law enforcement agency or public school district, and (3) to meet the criteria for admission established by the Attorney General.

The bill does not preclude a school district from appointing a safe schools resource officer without referral to or certification by the academy.

Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer who is permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison between students and social service agencies, to assist school administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and to assist with school activities.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE FOR **ASSEMBLY, No. 2657**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2005

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2657 (AS).

This floor substitute requires the Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop a training course for safe schools resource officers and public school employees assigned by a board of education to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement. The substitute directs the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Police Training Commission, to ensure that the training course is developed within 180 days of the substitute's effective date.

Under the substitute, the course will provide comprehensive and consistent training in current school resource officer practices and concepts. The course will be made available to (1) any law enforcement officer or public school employee referred by the board of education of the public school to which assignment as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is sought, or (2) any individual assigned prior to the effective date of the substitute to serve as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement in a public school. Under the substitute, the commission will award a certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. Additionally, the commission will ensure that an individual assigned to instruct the course is proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices and concepts.

Following the development of the course or 180 days following the substitute's effective date, whichever occurs first, a board of education will be prohibited from assigning an individual to serve in a school as a safe schools resource officer or a school liaison to law enforcement unless the individual first successfully completes the training program. This requirement will not, however, apply to an individual assigned prior to effective date of the substitute, although the training course will be available to such persons.

Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education

teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison between students and social service agencies, to assist school administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and to assist with school activities.

As reported by committee, the floor substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2657 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2162.

SENATE, No. 2162

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2004

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED MADDEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Police Training Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop training course for safe schools resource officers and school liaisons to law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning training for safe schools resource officers and
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 52 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: many New Jersey public
9 schools employ a safe schools resource officer or, in conjunction with
10 local law enforcement agencies, assign a law enforcement officer to
11 serve as a safe schools resource officer, or assign a school employee
12 to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement; most safe schools
13 resource officers perform many roles, including law enforcement
14 officer, law-related counselor and law-related education teacher; every
15 safe schools resource officer works with and among pupils, teachers
16 and administrators, and many also work with parents; by virtue of their
17 daily interaction with pupils, safe schools resource officers invariably
18 make a strong, early impression of the institution of law enforcement;
19 the job of safe schools resource officer involves great responsibility
20 and highly specialized skills; and the State should provide
21 comprehensive and consistent training for those individuals entrusted
22 with these responsibilities.

23
24 2. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal
25 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation
26 with the Attorney General, shall develop a training course for safe
27 schools resource officers and public school employees assigned by a
28 board of education to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement.
29 The Attorney General, in conjunction with the Police Training
30 Commission, shall ensure that the training course is developed within
31 180 days of the effective date of this act. The course shall at a
32 minimum provide comprehensive and consistent training in current
33 school resource officer practices and concepts. The course shall be
34 made available to:

35 (1) any law enforcement officer or public school employee referred
36 by the board of education of the public school to which assignment as
37 a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is
38 sought; and

39 (2) any safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law
40 enforcement assigned to a public school prior to the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill).

42 b. The training course developed by the commission pursuant to
43 subsection a. of this section shall be offered at each school approved
44 by the commission to provide police training courses pursuant to the
45 provisions of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.). The commission
46 shall ensure that an individual assigned to instruct the course is

1 proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices
2 and concepts.

3 c. The commission shall award a certificate to each individual who
4 successfully completes the course.

5 d. The Police Training Commission, in consultation with the
6 Commissioner of Education, shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
7 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
8 et seq.), to implement the provisions of this section.

9

10 3. a. Following the development of the training course pursuant
11 to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
12 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
13 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
14 assign a safe schools resource officer to a public school unless that
15 individual first completes the safe schools resource officer training
16 course.

17 b. Following the development of the training course pursuant to
18 subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending
19 before the Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective
20 date of this act, whichever occurs first, a board of education shall not
21 assign an employee to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement
22 unless that individual first completes the safe schools resource officer
23 training course.

24 c. A person who is assigned to a public school as a safe schools
25 resource officer prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (now
26 pending before the Legislature as this bill) or assigned to serve as a
27 school liaison to law enforcement prior to that date shall not be
28 required to complete the safe schools resource officer training course
29 developed by the Police Training Commission pursuant to subsection
30 a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature
31 as this bill), but may in accordance with that section.

32

33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34

35

36

STATEMENT

37

38 This bill requires the Police Training Commission in the Division of
39 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in
40 consultation with the Attorney General, to develop a training course
41 for safe schools resource officers and public school employees
42 assigned by a board of education to serve as a school liaison to law
43 enforcement. The bill directs the Attorney General, in conjunction with
44 the Police Training Commission, to ensure that the training course is
45 developed within 180 days of the bill's effective date.

46 Under the bill, the course will provide comprehensive and

S2162 MADDEN

1 consistent training in current school resource officer practices and
2 concepts. The course will be made available to (1) any law
3 enforcement officer or public school employee referred by the board
4 of education of the public school to which assignment as a safe schools
5 resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is sought, or (2)
6 any individual assigned prior to the effective date of the bill to serve
7 as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement
8 in a public school. Under the bill, the commission will award a
9 certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course.
10 Additionally, the commission will ensure that an individual assigned to
11 instruct the course is proficient and experienced in current school
12 resource officer practices and concepts.

13 Following the development of the course or 180 days following the
14 bill's effective date, whichever occurs first, a board of education will
15 be prohibited from assigning an individual to serve in a school as a safe
16 schools resource officer or a school liaison to law enforcement unless
17 the individual first successfully completes the training program. This
18 requirement will not, however, apply to an individual assigned prior to
19 effective date of the bill, although the training course will be available
20 to such persons.

21 Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer
22 permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law
23 enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education
24 teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools
25 resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their
26 rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between
27 law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations
28 occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison
29 between students and social service agencies, to assist school
30 administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and
31 to assist with school activities.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2162

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2005

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2162.

This bill requires the Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop a training course for safe schools resource officers and public school employees assigned by a board of education to serve as a school liaison to law enforcement. The bill directs the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Police Training Commission, to ensure that the training course is developed within 180 days of the bill's effective date.

Under the bill, the course will provide comprehensive and consistent training in current school resource officer practices and concepts. The course will be made available to (1) any law enforcement officer or public school employee referred by the board of education of the public school to which assignment as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement is sought, or (2) any individual assigned prior to the effective date of the bill to serve as a safe schools resource officer or school liaison to law enforcement in a public school. Under the bill, the commission will award a certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. Additionally, the commission will ensure that an individual assigned to instruct the course is proficient and experienced in current school resource officer practices and concepts.

Following the development of the course or 180 days following the bill's effective date, whichever occurs first, a board of education will be prohibited from assigning an individual to serve in a school as a safe schools resource officer or a school liaison to law enforcement unless the individual first successfully completes the training program. This requirement will not, however, apply to an individual assigned prior to effective date of the bill, although the training course will be available to such persons.

Generally, a safe schools resource officer is a police officer permanently assigned to a school or set of schools to serve as a law enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related education teacher. In addition to regular law enforcement duties, a safe schools resource officer might be assigned to help educate pupils on their rights and responsibilities under the law, to serve as a liaison between

law enforcement and a principal in investigating criminal law violations occurring in a school or on school property, to serve as a liaison between students and social service agencies, to assist school administration and faculty in developing criminal justice programs, and to assist with school activities.

As reported by committee, Senate Bill No. 2162 is identical to the Assembly Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2657.