

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0117

School finance-school resource officers.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Freeman, Blake, Campbell,
Connolly, Gingery, Paxton, Sommers and
Winters and Senator(s) Christensen, Coe,
Cooper, Craft, Hastert and Nutting

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school safety and security; establishing
2 supplemental financial assistance available to school
3 districts for school resource officers for the protection
4 and safety of schools; prescribing prioritization criteria,
5 specifying eligibility and providing for distribution;
6 granting rulemaking authority for program administration;
7 providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective
8 date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.**

13

14 (a) For school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016,
15 supplemental financial assistance shall be made available

1 to school districts to acquire school resource officers for
2 enhancing the protection and safety of students, faculty
3 and staff attending or employed within the schools of the
4 district. Assistance shall be predicated upon promoting
5 community and cost sharing in addressing school safety and
6 security, and shall be prioritized among school districts
7 as follows:

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9 (i) School districts not employing school
10 resource officers during the school year immediately
11 preceding that school year for which financial assistance
12 application is submitted;

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14 (ii) School districts comprised of rural schools
15 located outside of population centers that would experience
16 a reduced response time through the employment of a school
17 resource officer;

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19 (iii) School districts entering into agreements
20 with local law enforcement agencies and other school
21 districts in sharing school safety and security costs;

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23 (iv) School districts using any financial
24 assistance received under this section to supplement

1 existing school resource officers employed by the district
2 to increase daily school resource officer contacts within
3 its schools.

4
5 (b) Each school district may apply to the department
6 of education for financial assistance under this section on
7 or before May 15 of the school year immediately preceding
8 the school year for which application is submitted.
9 Application shall be on a form and in a manner prescribed
10 by the department and assistance shall be based upon prior
11 school year attendance reports. Application review shall
12 be in accordance with a process established by department
13 rule and regulation and shall at minimum, require the
14 following documentation:

15
16 (i) The district's safety and security plan,
17 identifying how the district would deploy supplemental
18 assistance under this section, including a description of
19 the duties which would be assigned to the school resource
20 officer, describing the impact of the program on school
21 operations and assurance that local law enforcement is
22 included within its safety and security plan and that local
23 law enforcement agencies provide respective safety and
24 security plans to the district;

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2 (ii) Assurance that the district would restrict
3 expenditures of supplemental assistance to the costs of
4 employing school resource officers and to safety and
5 security equipment approved by the department as necessary
6 to execute its safety and security plan;

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8 (iii) A report of any federal funds available to
9 the applicant district for the costs of employing school
10 resource officers or security aides within its schools.

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12 (c) On or before July 1 following the date of
13 application, the department shall notify each district of
14 its eligibility to receive financial assistance, together
15 with an estimate of the amount of assistance the eligible
16 district would receive for the school year of application.
17 The department shall distribute assistance under this
18 section to each eligible district on or before August 1 of
19 the appropriate school year.

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21 (d) Financial assistance under this section shall be
22 based upon prior year attendance reports submitted by each
23 eligible school district pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(m)(iv).
24 The amount of assistance shall be computed by the

1 department for the eligible applicant district as if the
2 education resource block grant model contained a component
3 for school resource officers generating one (1) FTE
4 position for a total district ADM of one thousand (1,000)
5 or less, and one (1) additional FTE position for each
6 additional one thousand (1,000) district ADM thereafter.
7 The FTE positions shall be funded at a salary equal to
8 forty-nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$49,500.00) per
9 school year, adjusted for regional cost differences as
10 determined for each district under W.S. 21-13-309(m)(v)(C),
11 but not adjusted for any other compensation related
12 benefit. The amount received under this subsection shall
13 also be reduced by all federal funds received by the school
14 district for the purpose of funding salaries for school
15 resource officers. Each FTE position generated under this
16 subsection above the first FTE shall be prorated up and
17 down from the specified FTE position level specified for
18 each district similar to computational operation of other
19 components within the block grant model. "FTE" and "ADM"
20 as used in this section shall be as defined in ATTACHMENT
21 "A", as referenced in W.S. 21-13-101(a)(xvii).

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23 (e) Financial assistance to each qualifying applicant
24 school district shall be made by the department from

1 amounts appropriated by the legislature from the foundation
2 program account for purposes of the assistance program
3 established by this section and shall be in addition to the
4 foundation program amount computed for that district under
5 W.S. 21-13-309(p). If there is an insufficient amount
6 within the school foundation program account from amounts
7 appropriated by the legislature for financial assistance
8 under this section, the department shall make a pro rata
9 reduction in financial assistance payments among all
10 qualifying districts. District expenditures of amounts
11 distributed under this section shall be solely for district
12 security resource officers in accordance with the safety
13 and security plan submitted by the district under
14 subsection (b) of this section, and for necessary safety
15 and security equipment approved by the department. The
16 department may withhold or request repayment of a portion
17 or the entire amount to be distributed to any district
18 under this section for noncompliance with program
19 documentation required to be submitted by the applicant
20 district. Any appropriated amounts not expended or
21 encumbered under this section as of July 1, 2016, including
22 any amounts distributed to districts which are not spent by
23 July 1, 2016, shall revert to the foundation program
24 account.

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2 (f) Each district shall report to the department of
3 education on expenditures of amounts distributed under this
4 section, together with additional information required by
5 the department on the use of school resource officers and
6 an evaluation of the impact of these officers and the use
7 of any safety and security equipment procured from
8 supplement assistance on the effectiveness of the
9 district's school safety and security programs as
10 documented by data. The department shall compile the
11 information reported by districts under this subsection and
12 on or before October 1, 2015, and again on or before
13 October 1, 2016, report the compilation to the joint
14 education interim committee.

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16 (g) Information reported under subsection (f) of this
17 section, together with other available data and resources,
18 shall be used by the joint education interim committee in
19 undertaking recalibration of the education resource block
20 grant model pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(t).

21

22 **Section 2.** For the period commencing July 1, 2014,
23 and ending June 30, 2016, four million six hundred thousand
24 dollars (\$4,600,000.00) is appropriated from the school

1 foundation program account to the department of education
2 to fund the safety and security supplemental assistance
3 program created under and subject to requirements specified
4 under section 1 of this act.

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6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

10

11 (END)