

Senate Bill 149

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Parent of the 42nd and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 employment and training of peace officers, so as to provide for training requirements for
3 school resource officers; to provide for a definition; to provide for penalties; to provide for
4 rules and regulations by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council for the
5 administration of such training requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

9 Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and
10 training of peace officers, is amended in Code Section 35-8-2, relating to definitions, by
11 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

12 "(10.1) 'School resource officer' means a peace officer whose primary employment or
13 assigned duties with a law enforcement unit is assignment or appointment to a public
14 elementary school or secondary school for more than five consecutive instructional days
15 at one, or a collection of one or more, elementary schools or secondary schools."

16 SECTION 2.

17 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

18 "35-8-27.

19 (a)(1) Any person assigned or appointed as a school resource officer on or after January
20 1, 2018, shall have a period of six months from the date of first initial assignment or
21 appointment to successfully complete a training course for school resource officers
22 approved by the council. Any person who fails to complete such training course within
23 six months of the date of such person's first initial assignment or appointment as a school
24 resource officer shall be prohibited from working as a school resource officer until such
25 training course is completed. Any person who fails to comply with the training

26 requirements provided for in this Code section may have his or her certificate sanctioned
27 or revoked.

28 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any person who, within two years
29 prior to January 1, 2018, completed a training course for school resource officers that was
30 approved by the council and that met or exceeded the requirement of such course as
31 provided for in this Code section as determined by the council.

32 (b) The training course provided for under subsection (a) of this Code section shall consist
33 of at least 40 hours of training. Such training course shall, at a minimum, provide training
34 in the role of a peace officer assigned to an elementary or secondary school, search and
35 seizure in elementary and secondary schools, criminal offenses, gang awareness, drug
36 awareness, interviews and interrogations, emergency preparedness, and interpersonal
37 interactions with adolescents, including the encountering of mental health issues.

38 (c) The council shall conduct administrative compliance reviews with respect to the
39 requirements of this Code section and may collaborate with the Department of Education
40 in the fulfillment of the purposes of this Code section. The council shall be authorized to
41 promulgate rules and regulations to facilitate the administration and coordination of
42 standards, certification, and compliance reviews consistent with the provisions of this Code
43 section.

44 (d) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit a peace officer from
45 responding to emergencies or otherwise performing duties at an elementary or secondary
46 school that are a result of or incidental to his or her assignment not as a school resource
47 officer."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.