

REFERENCE TITLE: school safety program; alternative proposals

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2831

Introduced by
Representative Keshe1

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-154, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-154, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-154. School safety program; purpose; program proposals;
5 requirements; annual report; public records
6 exemption; definitions

7 A. The school safety program is established within the department
8 of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning
9 environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school
10 resource officers, juvenile probation officers, school safety officers,
11 school counselors and school social workers on school campuses. The
12 school safety program may also support the costs of purchasing safety
13 technology, safety training and infrastructure improvements for school
14 campuses as provided in subsection D of this section. A school district
15 or charter school may apply to participate in the school safety program as
16 provided in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by
17 April 15 a program proposal to the department of education. A school
18 district or charter school that receives approval for a three-year program
19 under this subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its
20 approved program.

21 B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
22 school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers,
23 juvenile probation officers or school safety officers, or any combination
24 of these officers, on a school campus shall contain:

25 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
26 school or school district.

27 2. A plan to provide the current school building blueprints, floor
28 plans and school safety assessments for each school site to the local law
29 enforcement agency, emergency medical services provider and fire
30 department that provides services to the school site.

31 3. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a
32 plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as
33 a school safety prevention strategy.

34 4. A plan to use trained school resource officers, juvenile
35 probation officers or school safety officers, or any combination of these
36 officers, in the school.

37 5. A plan to train school resource officers, juvenile probation
38 officers or school safety officers, or any combination of these officers,
39 on the family educational rights and privacy act, civil rights and
40 adolescent mental health issues.

41 6. If the school district or charter school has already
42 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
43 compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

1 C. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
2 school for supporting the costs of placing school counselors or school
3 social workers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

4 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
5 school or school district.

6 2. A plan to provide the current school building blueprints, floor
7 plans and school safety assessments for each school site to the local law
8 enforcement agency, emergency medical services provider and fire
9 department that provides services to the school site.

10 3. A plan for implementing a school guidance and counseling program
11 that includes the following:

12 (a) A detailed description of the relationship between the school
13 counselor or the school social worker, or both, and local community
14 resources.

15 (b) A plan for using school counselor and school social worker
16 services in the school, or both.

17 (c) A detailed description of the methods for evaluating the
18 effectiveness of the school guidance and counseling plan.

19 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school guidance and
20 counseling plan.

21 (e) Policies on notifying parents and other family members of
22 issues or concerns as identified in the school guidance and counseling
23 plan.

24 (f) A detailed description of the school's, school district's or
25 charter school's referral procedures to the appropriate community entities
26 and state agencies.

27 4. If the school district or charter school has already
28 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
29 compliance and implementation of the most recent approved program
30 proposal.

31 ~~D. If a school district or charter school whose program proposal~~
32 ~~pursuant to subsection B or C of this section was approved by the state~~
33 ~~board of education cannot place one or more of the school resource~~
34 ~~officers, juvenile probation officers, school safety officers, school~~
35 ~~counselors or school social workers, or any combination of these~~
36 ~~individuals, as included in the approved program proposal, the school~~
37 ~~district or charter school may submit an alternative A program proposal~~
38 **SUBMITTED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL** for supporting the costs
39 of purchasing safety technology, safety training and infrastructure
40 improvements for its school campus or campuses. ~~An alternative program~~
41 ~~proposal submitted pursuant to this subsection~~ shall contain:

42 1. A detailed description of the safety needs of the school
43 district or charter school.

44 2. A detailed description of the proposed expenditures and capital
45 improvements, including:

1 (a) The safety needs that each proposed expenditure will address.

2 (b) The specific technology or training program that the school
3 district or charter school seeks to acquire.

4 (c) For infrastructure improvements, all costs associated with the
5 improvements, including architectural and engineering fees, safety
6 evaluations and equipment for securing entrances and exits.

7 3. Any other information requested by the department of education.

8 E. The department of education shall review and administer the
9 school resource officers, juvenile probation officers and school safety
10 officers program proposals in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement
11 agencies and law-related education providers awarded a contract pursuant
12 to section 41-2534, subject to review and approval by the state board of
13 education. The department of education shall use relevant crime
14 statistics to assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit
15 school districts and charter schools that submit program proposals in
16 order to verify the information contained in the program proposals. The
17 department of education shall contract to provide guidelines, curricula
18 and support resources for school resource officers, juvenile probation
19 officers and school safety officers to use in implementing a law-related
20 education program.

21 F. The department of education shall review and administer the
22 school counselors and school social workers program proposals in
23 cooperation with school administrators, principals, teachers, parents and
24 community mental health professionals. The department of education shall
25 use relevant school-level academic, social and emotional statistics to
26 assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts
27 and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
28 information contained in the program proposals.

29 G. The department of education shall review and administer the
30 safety technology, safety training and infrastructure improvements program
31 proposals. The department shall use relevant crime statistics to assess
32 the needs of each program proposal and may visit school districts and
33 charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
34 information contained in the program proposals. The department may
35 approve all or part of a safety technology, safety training or
36 infrastructure improvement program proposal.

37 H. The department of education, subject to the review and approval
38 of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the school
39 districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program
40 requirements prescribed in this section and in section 15-154.02 and whose
41 program proposals have been approved by the state board of education.

42 I. The department of education shall review program proposals
43 submitted by school districts and charter schools for participation in the
44 school safety program and shall select school sites that are eligible to
45 receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant to this section.

1 The department of education may prioritize program proposals for school
2 resource officer, juvenile probation officer and school safety officer
3 grants to school districts and charter schools that have agreements to
4 share the cost of the school resource officer, juvenile probation officer
5 or school safety officer with a law enforcement agency or the courts.

6 J. The department of education shall evaluate the effectiveness of
7 all the approved program proposals submitted pursuant to subsections B, C
8 and D of this section within the school safety program and report on the
9 activities of the program and the participants in the school safety
10 program to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
11 representatives and the governor on or before November 1 of each year and
12 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. The
13 evaluation and report shall include survey results from participating
14 schools and data from participating schools on the impact of participating
15 in the school safety program. The department shall establish data
16 guidelines for school safety program participants to follow in reporting
17 pursuant to this subsection.

18 K. The school safety program established by this section shall
19 include a school safety program guidance manual adopted by the department
20 of education that requires a dispute resolution process to be included in
21 the service agreement between a school district or charter school that
22 submitted a program proposal and received a school resource officer grant
23 or school safety officer grant from the school safety program and the law
24 enforcement agency that provides services to the school district or
25 charter school.

26 L. Any appropriations that are made to the department of education
27 for the approved program proposals within the school safety program are
28 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of
29 appropriations. All monies that are not used for an approved program
30 proposal within the school safety program during the fiscal year for which
31 the monies were appropriated revert to the department of education for
32 distribution to the program in the following fiscal year.

33 M. Monies received by a school district or charter school under the
34 school safety program shall be spent to implement the approved program
35 proposals.

36 N. The auditor general shall include the school safety program as
37 part of its ongoing sunset review of agencies and programs.

38 O. Notwithstanding any other law, school building blueprints and
39 floor plans are not public records and are exempt from title 39,
40 chapter 1.

41 P. For the purposes of this section:

42 1. "Law-related education" means interactive education to equip
43 children and youth with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, school
44 safety and effective citizenship.

- 1 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to
2 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities
3 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding
4 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging
5 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive
6 citizens.
- 7 3. "School counselor" means a professional educator who holds a
8 valid school counselor certificate issued by the department of education.
- 9 4. "School guidance and counseling program" means a counseling
10 program that supports, promotes and enhances the academic, personal,
11 social, emotional and career development of all students.
- 12 5. "School resource officer" means any of the following:
13 (a) A peace officer.
14 (b) A full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the
15 Arizona peace officer standards and training board.
16 (c) An individual who was previously employed as a peace officer in
17 this state, who retired in good standing and who is assigned to
18 participate in the school safety program by a law enforcement agency
19 pursuant to section 15-155.
- 20 6. "School safety officer" means a school resource officer who is
21 working in an off-duty capacity.
- 22 7. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a
23 valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of
24 education.