

Amendment: 3

Representatives Whitmire and Lowe proposes the following amendment:

Department of Public Safety

New

63.ssp. (DPS: School Safety Program) Funds appropriated for the School Safety Program and School Resource Officers in this Act shall be utilized by the department for the purpose of hiring certified law enforcement officers to serve as a school resource officer for school districts, including the South Carolina Public Charter School District and schools authorized by an institution of higher learning, that otherwise would lack the adequate resources to hire their own school resource officers. In making determinations of eligibility the department shall use the most recent index of taxpaying ability as the district's indicator of ability to pay, with districts of the lowest index of taxpaying ability receiving priority consideration. Districts must apply for funding through the department. In making awards the department shall provide funding directly to the local law enforcement agency to pay for the cost of the law enforcement officer that will serve as a full time school resource officer. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and expended for equipment and training in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 per school resource officer. Quarterly, local law enforcement agencies will provide to the Department the number of full and part-time school resource officers hired by school district and by school.

The Department of Education shall transfer any fund balance along with any FTE'S in the program from the South Carolina Department of Education to the Department of Public Safety by August 15. This balance must include any unexpended funds in the program from prior fiscal years.