

Amendment: CJ1

Representative Lowe proposes the following amendment:

Section 63- K050-Department of Public Safety

Amend:

63.8. (DPS: School Safety Program) (A) 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, in collaboration with a local law enforcement agency of its choosing, must apply for funding through the department. In making awards the department shall provide funding directly to the local law enforcement agency, or private companies, as authorized, to pay for the cost of the law enforcement officer that shall serve as a full-time school resource officer. Unexpended funds may be carried forward and expended for salaries, equipment, and training. School district superintendents shall provide to the department at the end of each quarter the number of full and part-time school resource officers that currently serve schools in their respective districts, regardless of the fund sources supporting those officers. Of the funds appropriated for the School Safety Program and School Resource Officers, the Department of Public Safety shall consider a public or charter school serving kindergarten through eighth grade with an enrollment exceeding one thousand five hundred students to be eligible for a state-funded School Resource Officer, without regard to whether the school is located within a single facility. Funds allocated pursuant to this provision shall be used solely to supplement locally- funded School Resource Officers by authorizing a state-funded position and shall not be used to supplant or replace local funds appropriated for the same purpose.

(B) The Department of Education shall transfer any fund balance to the Department of Public Safety by August 15.