
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 234 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ AND
KINSEY, MARCH 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 10, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in school security, providing for
6 training requirements for school police officers and school
7 security guards.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The General Assembly finds and declares as
11 follows:

12 (1) School police officers and school security guards
13 employed by school entities and nonpublic schools across this
14 Commonwealth are entrusted with securing our school
15 buildings, property and the safety of our students, staff,
16 administration and all related support staff employed in the
17 educational setting. These police officers and security
18 guards are to ensure that the youth of this Commonwealth have
19 a safe learning environment.

20 (2) The purpose of this act is to provide for the

1 education, training and certification of school police
2 officers and school security guards as a basis of their
3 employment and to prescribe a course of instruction to obtain
4 certification.

5 Section 2. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
6 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
7 section to read:

8 Section 1305.1-C. Training requirements for school police
9 officers and school security guards.

10 (a) Education and training requirements.--Education and
11 training requirements for school police officers and school
12 security guards are as follows:

13 (1) A school police officer or school security guard
14 hired by a school entity or nonpublic school on or after the
15 effective date of this section shall complete a mandated
16 training course within one year of being hired.

17 (2) A school police officer or school security guard
18 hired by a school entity or nonpublic school prior to the
19 effective date of this section shall have a reasonable amount
20 of time, as determined by the board of directors of the
21 school entity or the administration of the nonpublic school,
22 to either give cause to the board's satisfaction as to why
23 the training should be waived or to complete the mandated
24 training course.

25 (3) An approved training course shall include the
26 following topics:

27 (i) Professionalism.

28 (ii) Authority as a school police officer or school
29 security guard.

30 (iii) Report writing.

- 1 (iv) Self-defense and dealing with unruly students
2 and adults.
- 3 (v) Search and seizure on school property.
- 4 (vi) Testifying in court.
- 5 (vii) Working with State and local police agencies.
- 6 (viii) Lockdown and crisis procedures.
- 7 (ix) Interviewing witnesses.
- 8 (x) Preserving evidence.
- 9 (xi) The relevant provisions of this act.
- 10 (xii) Basic computer skills.
- 11 (xiii) Custody issues specific to schools.
- 12 (xiv) Crowd control.
- 13 (xv) Special events security.
- 14 (xvi) Drug identification.
- 15 (xvii) Truancy and related issues.
- 16 (4) In addition, a school police officer and school
17 security guard shall be certified in basic first aid,
18 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external
19 defibrillator usage.
- 20 (5) An approved training course shall include at least
21 60 hours of instruction.
- 22 (6) Instructors for the required course material shall
23 be accredited through one of the following:
- 24 (i) The department.
- 25 (ii) The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
26 Delinquency.
- 27 (iii) The provisions of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D
28 (relating to municipal police education and training).
- 29 (iv) The Pennsylvania State Police.
- 30 (7) Instructors for any additional course material shall

1 be approved by the board of directors of a school entity or
2 the administration of a nonpublic school.

3 (b) Duty of board of directors and administration.--The
4 board of directors of a school entity or the administration of a
5 nonpublic school shall have the duty to:

6 (1) Adopt curriculum that is in compliance with this
7 section.

8 (2) Pay costs of certification and recertification, but
9 not for qualification for training.

10 (3) Set the date and location of the certification and
11 recertification courses.

12 (4) Maintain and file with the department a list of all
13 certified school police officers and school security guards
14 in the school entity or nonpublic school.

15 (c) Duty of department.--The department shall have the duty
16 to approve all school board-adopted or administration-adopted
17 policies and the authority to promulgate rules and regulations
18 consistent with this section and to issue certification or
19 recertification upon successful completion of the mandated and
20 approved training course.

21 (d) Automatic certification.--An individual who is certified
22 under 53 Pa.C.S. § 2167 (relating to police training), 2168
23 (relating to automatic certification) or 2169 (relating to in-
24 service training by existing personnel) shall be automatically
25 certified by the board of directors of a school entity or the
26 administration of a nonpublic school.

27 (e) Qualification for admission.--To qualify for admission
28 into a training course, the individual must meet all of the
29 following:

30 (1) Be 18 years of age or older.

1 (2) Have a physician attest to the individual's physical
2 ability to perform the duties of a school police officer or
3 school security guard.

4 (3) Have on file with both the board of directors of a
5 school entity or the administration of a nonpublic school and
6 the department the following:

7 (i) A Federal Bureau of Investigation clearance.

8 (ii) A completed background check under section 111.

9 (f) Certification.--The department shall issue a
10 certification to the individual upon successful completion of
11 the required training course. Certification may be renewed
12 annually upon successful completion of 20 hours of continuing
13 education consisting of updates to the basic curriculum or
14 specialized areas that the board of directors of a school entity
15 or administration of a nonpublic school deems necessary.

16 (g) Applicability.--Nothing in this section shall require or
17 prohibit a centralized training or recertification course.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.