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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 317
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 317's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by Senate Judiciary

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Coley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may relieve school districts and other public schools that choose to authorize certain personnel to be armed in a school safety zone from basic peace officer training costs.

Detailed Analysis

Current law generally prohibits persons from carrying firearms in a school safety zone. This prohibition does not apply to a person employed as a security officer or any other person with written authorization from a board of education or governing body of a school to go armed within a school safety zone. Current law also requires school employees serving in a law enforcement or security role in which the person goes armed while on duty to complete an approved basic peace officer training program unless the person has completed 20 years of active duty as a peace officer. In late March 2020, the Ohio 12th District Court of Appeals ruled the training requirement also applies to individuals other than a security officer who are authorized to go armed. The decision applies to schools under the Court's jurisdiction, which covers the following eight counties in southwest Ohio: Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Madison, Preble, and Warren. The school district involved in the case, Madison Local School District, appealed the 12th District Court of Appeals' decision to the Ohio Supreme Court, which on August 26, 2020, granted a stay of the ruling until it issues a final decision.

In response to the 12th District Court of Appeals' decision, the bill exempts individuals authorized to go armed from basic peace officer training requirements so long as the authorized individual is not hired in the capacity of a special police officer or security officer. See LSC's [bill analysis](#) for a detailed discussion of the bill and the court case. As a result, school districts or other public schools that choose to authorize arming such personnel may not incur costs associated with paying for basic peace officer training for the designated employees, assuming the districts or schools would have paid for this training. Basic peace officer training

program costs vary by provider, with the total curriculum consisting of a minimum of 737 training hours.¹ Various tuition listings show amounts in the range of \$5,000 or more.² Under the bill, the degree of training will be left to the discretion of the district or school.

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¹ Ohio Attorney General's Office. "How to Become a Peace Officer in Ohio." Available online at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/How-to-Become-a-Peace-Officer-in-Ohio>.

² Not all peace officer training academies are available to nonlaw enforcement personnel (such as teachers or administrators that could be authorized to go armed). Some require recruits to be appointed by a law enforcement agency while others are open to anyone who meets the qualifications. Some of these latter options are provided by schools of various types, but may only be available through enrollment in an associate degree program, as in the case of Columbus State Community College.