STATE OF NEW YORK

9336

IN SENATE

March 3, 2026

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law the criminal procedure law and the retirement and social security law, in relation to the creation of the Comprehensive School Resource Officer Training and Implementation Program (SRO TIP)

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2801-c to read as follows:

§ 2801-c. New York state school resource officer program. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "school resource officer" shall mean a school resource officer, school safety officer, school security officer, or any other substantially similar position or office whose purpose is to provide improved public safety and/or security on school grounds.

2. Any boards of cooperative educational services, public or nonpublic school which is not in a city school district in a city having a population of one million or more may employ, in either the classified or unclassified service, any school resource officer. Such school resource officer shall be: (a) a retired police officer, a retired state trooper, a retired deputy sheriff, or a retired federal law enforcement officer and who, once a certification process is established, is certified as a school resource officer under section twenty-eight hundred one-d of this article; or (b) an active duty state trooper, police officer in the service of a town, city or village, or deputy sheriff from a county sheriff's department.

3. Any boards of cooperative educational services, public or nonpublic school which is not in a city school district in a city having a population of one million or more may contract with the state of New York, or a county, city, town or village, for the provision of a state trooper, police officer or deputy sheriff, to serve as a school resource officer. A board of cooperative educational services or school district which is not in a city school district in a city having a population of one million or more shall be authorized to employ or contract for as

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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many school resource officers as such board of cooperative educational services or district deems necessary.

4. It shall be the primary role of the school resource officer to provide improved public safety and/or security on school grounds through community policing techniques, investigative measures, and tactical preparedness. In addition to such primary role, school resource officers also may serve additional roles, including but not limited to:

(a) Proposing and enforcing policies and administrative procedures related to school safety;

(b) Utilizing technology in the implementation of a comprehensive safety program;

(c) Serving as a liaison with other school officials and other community agencies, including but not limited to, other law enforcement entities, courts, health care entities, and mental health entities;

(d) Proposing and implementing strategies concerning prevention, response and recovery efforts for incidents and/or emergency situations occurring on school grounds and/or involving students, faculty, administration or visitors to the school;

(e) Proposing and assisting in the execution of school emergency drills and proposing and assisting in the creation of school safety plans;

(f) Providing educational and mentoring services to students;

(g) Assisting in the design, explanation and enforcement of school safety and security policies and procedures; and

(h) Performing such other and further roles, responsibilities and activities as the school district may deem appropriate and proper for a law enforcement officer to perform, in order to advance the security, safety and well-being of students, faculty, administration and visitors to the school district's schools, transportation vehicles and school grounds.

5. Such school resource officer may carry and possess firearms during the course of their duties at such school district, but nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize such school resource officer to carry, possess, repair or dispose of a firearm unless the appropriate license therefor has been issued pursuant to section 400.00 of the penal law.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2801-d to read as follows:

§ 2801-d. New York state school resource officer certification program. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "school resource officer" shall mean a school resource officer, school safety officer, school security officer, or any other substantially similar position or office whose purpose is to provide improved public safety and/or security on school grounds.

2. The department shall, utilizing boards of cooperative educational services, establish a school resource officer training program to certify retired police officers, retired deputy sheriffs, retired state troopers and retired federal law enforcement officers as school resource officers as well as a school resource officer recertification program to recertify school resource officers who have previously completed and passed the department's school resource officer certification program. Such programs shall be designed by the department to include, but not be limited to, counseling techniques, community policing practices, gender and racial sensitivity awareness, and field and tactical training for prevention and response to incidents. The department shall utilize current or retired police officers, in order to train school resource

officers in any police related or tactical training provided for certification. The certifications granted from such programs shall expire one year after the program was completed and passed.

3. The department shall separately offer the school resource officer training program and the school resource officer recertification program at least once per year per county.

§ 3. Section 2.10 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new subdivision 88 to read as follows:

88. Retired police officers, retired state troopers, retired deputy sheriffs or retired federal law enforcement officers employed by boards of cooperative educational services or a school district as a school resource officer; provided, however, that nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to authorize such officer to carry, possess, repair or dispose of a firearm unless the appropriate license therefor has been issued pursuant to section 400.00 of the penal law.

§ 4. Subdivision 3 of section 212 of the retirement and social security law, as added by section 1 of part Y of chapter 55 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions one and two of this section, the commissioner of education may determine, pursuant to section two hundred eleven of this article, that such earnings limitations shall not apply to a retired police officer, retired state trooper or retired deputy sheriff employed by boards of cooperative educational services or a school district as a school resource officer; or to a retired police officer, retired state trooper, or retired deputy sheriff who is employed as a school resource officer by a county, city, town or village police department pursuant to a contract with a school district to provide such services. The commissioner of education may include no more than thirty thousand dollars in addition to the earning limitations set forth in the table in subdivision two of this section to such retired police officer, retired state trooper, or retired deputy sheriff who is employed as a school resource officer.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL NOTE.--Pursuant to Legislative Law, Section 50:

This bill would amend the retirement and social security law (RSSL) to allow retired public safety officers to be reemployed as a school resource officer with an annual salary of $65,000 or less and continue to receive their full retirement benefit. Currently, the salary limit for these retirees is $35,000.

Insofar as this bill affects the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS), the direct cost incurred would be the retiree's pension benefit paid while post-retirement earnings are between $35,000 and $65,000 each calendar year. The pension benefit expected to be paid during that 4.5-month period is estimated to be $33,000 per person.

There would be additional costs in the form of lost employer contributions due to non-billable post-retirement earnings, which are estimated to be $5,400 per person.

Pursuant to section 25 of the RSSL, the direct costs in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System would be borne entirely by the state of New York and would require an itemized appropriation sufficient to pay the cost of the provision.

In the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System, all costs will be shared by the state of New York and all participating employers and spread over future billing cycles.

The number of members and retirees who could be affected by this legislation cannot be readily determined. For each retiree rehired

pursuant to this proposal, an annual cost of $38,400 is expected. If large numbers of retirees are rehired into such positions, significant annual costs would result.

This proposal exclusively benefits retirees. Therefore, the increased costs are attributable to legacy groups, but funding for this proposal will be collected on salary reported for current and future members of Tier 6.

Summary of relevant resources:

Membership data as of March 31, 2025 was used to measure the impact of the bill, the same data used in the Actuarial Valuations dated April 1, 2025. Distributions and other statistics can be found in the 2025 Report of the Actuary and the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The actuarial assumptions and methods used are described in the 2025 Annual Report to the Comptroller on Actuarial Assumptions, and the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York: Audit and Control. The fair value of assets and GASB disclosures can be found in the 2025 Financial Statements and Supplementary Information.

Assumptions, demographics, and other considerations may have been modified to better reflect specific provisions of any proposed benefit change(s).

This fiscal note does not constitute a legal opinion on the viability of the bill, nor is it intended to serve as a substitute for the professional judgment of an attorney.

This estimate, dated February 4, 2026, and intended for use only during the 2026 Legislative Session, is Fiscal Note Number 2026-34. As Chief Actuary of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS), I, Aaron Schottin Young, hereby certify that this analysis complies with applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice as well as the Code of Professional Conduct and Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion of the American Academy of Actuaries, of which I am a member. I am a member of NYSLRS but do not believe it impairs my objectivity.