

**BILL:** House Bill 522  
**TITLE:** Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Prohibited Conduct  
**DATE:** February 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports House Bill 522.

MABE recognizes the major contributions SROs are making in schools across the state to benefit school climate, culture, and safety. SROs and teachers, principals, and other school personnel are collaborating to provide mentoring, counseling, and instruction concerning appropriate student behaviors, and are responding accordingly to violations of school policy and law. MABE also recognizes the need to pursue expanded training of SROs, principals, behavioral health staff, and teachers, on the optimal classroom and school-based practices to maintain safe and supportive schools conducive to learning and the dignity and well-being of each student.

MABE is supporting House Bill 522 to prohibit SROs from unilaterally enforcing discipline-related school policies, rules, regulations, or procedures to ensure that SROs do not make determinations regarding student discipline. This legislation is aligned with Maryland's training program for SROs and therefore the policies and procedures that should already be in place regarding the appropriate role of SROs as it relates to students, educators, and administrators, and student disciplinary actions.

Local boards appreciate that when the Safe to Learn Act passed in 2018 it mandated the development of comprehensive curriculum for all SROs and any other designated school security personnel. The multi-faceted role of SRO's is evident in the outline of the 40-hour, 5-day, mandatory curriculum for all SROs and school security staff.

- School Resource Officer: Definition & History of Role
- Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOU) between the police department and the school
- Working Collaboratively with School Administration and Staff
- Restorative Practices in Schools: PBIS, School Based Mediation, and School to Prison Pipeline considerations and Implicit Bias
- Maintaining a Positive School Climate
- Victimization of Youth in Schools - Child Protective Services
- Informal Counseling Roles and Responsibilities
- Disability & Diversity Awareness with a focus on Inclusiveness and Cultural Fluency
- Implicit Bias
- Drug Education and Current Trends in Maryland Schools
- Investigation of Bullying, Threats & Social Media
- Principles of Effective Learning - The Expanding Role of an SRO as an Instructor
- Constructive Interactions with Students - Building Trust and Reducing Fear
- Collaboration and Problem Solving with Stakeholders
- Youth Development, Behavior and Discipline

MABE believes that this holistic approach to training SROs and other school security staff is essential to maintaining safe schools and access to an equitable, high quality education for all of Maryland's students. For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 522.