



School Safety: Implementing 7026

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Senate Bill 7026 – Public Safety

Senate Bill 7026 – Public Safety, was signed into law on Friday, March 9, 2018. The bill, cited as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, seeks to comprehensively address the crisis of gun violence, particularly gun violence on school campuses.

Among other things, the bill:

- Enhances school safety policies, procedures, and personnel on the state and local level
- Improves and expands mental health services
- Empowers law enforcement and the courts to limit access to firearms by young adults or by individuals exhibiting a risk of harming themselves or others



Stakeholder Meetings

- Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS)
- Florida School Boards Association (FSBA)
- Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA)
- Florida League of Cities (FLC)
- Small County Coalition

While FAC and FLC received input from the group on a multitude of issues, this presentation does not reflect or portray a consensus opinion of the stakeholders engaged. The recommendations expressed below are the sole opinion of FAC and FLC.



Safe School Officers and School Guardians

Amends s. 1006.12, F.S., relating to safe school officers:

- each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies
- must establish or assign one or more safe school officers at each school facility within the district

Available Options (or a combination of these):

1) Establish School Resource Officer (SRO) programs through cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies.

2) Commission one or more school safety officers for the protection and safety of school personnel, property, and students within the school district. The district school superintendent may recommend, and the district school board may appoint, one or more school safety officers.

3) At the school district's discretion, participate in the Guardian Program, if such program is established by the sheriff, to meet the requirement of establishing a safe school officer at each school facility.



Funding

- **Funding may be insufficient due to possible interpretations**
- **What does “establish or assign” mean?**

Where is the Money Coming From?

- \$97,500,000 in recurring funds to FDOE for the safe schools allocation.
- *These funds are directed at:*
 - **Option 1, establishing a SRO program through cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies**
 - **Option 2, the establishment of one or more school safety officers.**
- \$500,000 in recurring funds and \$67 million in nonrecurring funds to FDOE to allocate to sheriffs' offices who establish a guardian program.
- **These funds are directed at Option 3, participating in the Guardian Program, if such program is established by the sheriff.**



Advising Recommendations

1) Cities and counties have no legal funding responsibility relating to safe school officers.

However, the political reality is that some cities and counties have traditionally assisted in subsidizing School Resource Officers.

- Consider the potential legal and administrative ramifications of decisions regarding the funding of any requests from law enforcement.

2) Elected officials and staff should communicate with the local school district when determining whether the city and county will consider providing a subsidy.

3) Local school officials may have the ability to develop a hybrid model combining one or more of the defined legislative options provided to address school safety.

This policy area is evolving and local officials will be on the forefront of shaping this expanding endeavor for years to come.



Advising Recommendations, cont.

4) Cities and counties should budget any supplemental funding separate and apart from the normal law enforcement budget.

5) Cities and counties should consider developing an interlocal agreement on an annual basis, subject to the availability of state and local funds.



Questions???



THANK YOU!

