



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: June 3, 2024

Re: SB 1521

Signed: May 28, 2024

Effective: July 1, 2024

Topic: School Resource Officer Program

Summary: This bill amends existing law (70 O.S. § 5-148.1) to provide that a school district participating in the School Resource Officer Program *shall give first priority to employing or contracting with* a law enforcement officer with sworn authority and training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response who is assigned by an employing law enforcement agency to work collaboratively with one or more schools using community-oriented policing concepts.

The revised law now also provides that if a law enforcement agency serving the district's area is unwilling or unable to provide a law enforcement officer (as described above), the district may employ or contract with a retired law enforcement officer or an armed security guard who is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Security Guard and Private Investigator Act. For any such individual the district employs or contracts with, preauthorization is required from the law enforcement agency serving the district's area. In addition, the district must require a background check on the individual.

The law also specifies that the law enforcement agency serving the district's area shall allow an authorized individual employed or contracted with the school district access to the preauthorizing agency's radio system, and a police band radio system which may be used by the individual in the performance of his or her duties to be paid for by the employing district. In this regard, the district may use funds from the School Security Revolving Fund to cover the cost of the radio system.

Legal counsel at the firm is currently reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.