
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 402

AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF "RETIRED POLICE OFFICER" FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING SCHOOL SECURITY SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill disqualifies anyone who is prohibited from being hired by a law enforcement unit from being hired to provide armed security services in public schools as a retired police officer. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, limits who a municipality or board of education can employ or contract with for these services to (1) sworn members of local police departments and (2) retired police officers.

By law, law enforcement units cannot hire someone who was previously employed as a police officer and (1) was dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct calling into question his or her fitness to serve as an officer or (2) resigned or retired during an investigation into such conduct.

In addition to the bill's disqualification, existing law generally limits who can qualify as a retired police officer to those who (1) served with a local police department, the State Police, a federal law enforcement agency, or an out-of-state police department, (2) left in good standing, and (3) are a "qualified retired law enforcement officer" under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Malfeasance and Serious Misconduct

Under existing law, "malfeasance" has its common meaning (i.e. a wrongful, unlawful, or dishonest act) and "serious misconduct" means an officer's improper or illegal actions connected with official duties that could cause a miscarriage of justice or discrimination, such as a felony

conviction, evidence fabrication, repeated use of excessive force, bribe acceptance, or fraud.

Related Bills

sSB 397, § 11, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, modifies the law restricting law enforcement unit hirings so that it applies against specified peace officers instead of police officers.

sHB 5323, § 6, favorably reported by the Education Committee, (1) allows qualifying former parole officers, under certain conditions, to be armed security guards in public schools and (2) makes retired officers who left due to disciplinary action or while under investigation or while a disciplinary action was pending ineligible to provide these services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)