

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 429

Introduced by Pansing Brooks, 28.

PURPOSE: In recent years, an increasing number of public schools have arranged to have law enforcement officers serve as school resource officers. School resource officers (SROs) are assigned to and work in the schools, often on a full-time basis. SROs may have daily authority over students, even in situations that have traditionally been seen as everyday disciplinary matters subject to the school code of conduct. SROs may also be regarded as mentors and used as classroom presenters. In some respects, SROs are more than law enforcement, while still maintaining the power and authority of law enforcement officers.

The "school-to-prison pipeline" describes the process by which students are excluded from schools and pushed into the court system, often for non-criminal behaviors. Nationally, the rise of policing in schools is closely linked to an over-reliance on arrest and court processing to respond to normal adolescent behaviors. The purpose of this resolution is to examine the role and purpose of SROs in Nebraska, and whether, and to what extent, the interplay between law enforcement and education is contributing to our burgeoning state juvenile justice system.

The study shall include investigation and consideration of the following:

(1) School district policies regarding the limits and uses of law enforcement authority in schools, including a review of any standard responsibilities or job duties for SROs;

(2) Data relevant to considering whether and how law enforcement authority in Nebraska schools relates to juvenile court involvement, including:

(a) The number of SROs in districts and schools in Nebraska;

(b) The number of students cited or arrested at school or school-sponsored

activities by SROs, and the types of charges;

(c) An analysis of SRO-student interactions disaggregated by demographic indicators such as race, ethnicity, gender, grade level, and whether the student has an identified disability; and

(d) The number and severity of charges filed in juvenile court related to school behavior;

(3) National best practices regarding the role of SROs and opportunities for SRO training that is trauma-informed and responsive to adolescent development; and

(4) A review of relevant Nebraska law to determine whether current statutes or statutory interpretation may contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.