

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1076

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H.P. 698

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

### **An Act to Hire School Security Officers to Protect Students and Make Schools Safer**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on March 14, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.  
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and  
Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, MCINTYRE of Lowell,  
MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, Senators: GUERIN of  
Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6556-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§6556-A. School security officers**

4 A municipal police department or a county sheriff's office may contract for the services  
5 of a school security officer as needed on a per diem basis to provide school security-related  
6 functions and services. For the purposes of this section, "school security officer" has the  
7 same meaning as in Title 25, section 2801-A, subsection 7-B.

8 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§7-B** is enacted to read:

9 **7-B. School security officer.** "School security officer" means a law enforcement  
10 officer who possesses a current and valid certificate issued by the board pursuant to section  
11 2803-A, subsection 8-E and is employed by a nonfederal employer to provide security and  
12 protection to students and personnel of public schools.

13 **Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2801-B, sub-§1, ¶K**, as corrected by RR 2005, c. 1, §9, is  
14 amended to read:

15 K. A contract officer appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant to Title  
16 28-A, section 82-A; ~~or~~

17 **Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2801-B, sub-§1, ¶L**, as reallocated by RR 2005, c. 1, §10, is  
18 amended to read:

19 L. A transport officer; ~~or~~

20 **Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2801-B, sub-§1, ¶M** is enacted to read:

21 M. A school security officer.

22 **Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§8-E** is enacted to read:

23 **8-E. Training of school security officers.** To establish certification standards and a  
24 preservice and in-service training program for school security officers. This program must  
25 include:

26 A. Preservice law enforcement training under section 2804-B;

27 B. An additional school security officer training program developed and approved by  
28 the board that is specific to the duties of a school security officer; and

29 C. In-service law enforcement training that is specifically approved by the board as  
30 prescribed in section 2804-O;

31 **Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §2804-O** is enacted to read:

32 **§2804-O. Law enforcement training for school security officers**

33 As a condition to the continued employment of any person as a school security officer,  
34 that person must successfully complete, within the first 12 months of employment, the  
35 training required under section 2803-A, subsection 8-E. Thereafter, as a condition of  
36 continued employment as a school security officer, the school security officer must  
37 satisfactorily maintain the school security officer certification by completing recertification  
38 requirements prescribed by the board. The board, under extenuating and emergency  
39 circumstances in individual cases, may extend that period for not more than 180 days.

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**SUMMARY**

This bill creates a program, similar to the judicial marshal program, that allows municipal police departments and county sheriff's offices to hire personnel specifically as school security officers. These officers must be trained by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and must be certified as part-time law enforcement officers under the preservice training program.