

HB 72 -- POLICE OFFICERS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

SPONSOR: Walton Gray

This bill creates a program for police officer presence in schools and communities to increase positive social interaction between youth and law enforcement officers and to develop a harmonious rapport between the two entities.

The Department of Public Safety will focus its efforts on establishing programs, projects, activities, and events in communities that contain school districts with a total minority student population that exceeds 50% and is located in St. Louis County.

The department must:

- 1) Conduct studies on local, statewide, and national programs with demonstrated success at increasing positive social relationships with law enforcement agencies and youth;
- 2) Make recommendations to law enforcement agencies, communities, and schools as to programs, projects, activities, and events that will aid in developing a harmonious rapport between law enforcement officers and youth;
- 3) Advise the Commissioner of Education and the Department of Education on issues relating to the establishment of community relations programs in the specified communities;
- 4) Make recommendations for a state plan for community education which sets forth the goals and objectives of a community relations program and establishes a system of priorities for targeting available resources on the areas with the greatest need within a school district;
- 5) Make recommendations for establishing community schools within communities containing community relations programs; and
- 6) Make recommendations for the funding of local community relations programs and projects, activities, and events that will aid in developing a harmonious rapport between law enforcement officers and youth.