

HB 71 -- TASK FORCE ON POLICE OFFICERS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

SPONSOR: Walton Gray

This bill establishes the Task Force on Police Officer Presence in Schools and Communities. The task force will increase positive social interaction between youth and law enforcement officers and develop a harmonious rapport between the two entities. The task force will focus its efforts on establishing programs, projects, activities, and events in the communities of St. Louis County that contain school districts with a total minority student population that exceeds 50%.

The task force will consist of nine people to be appointed by the Director of the Department of Public Safety. Members may include, but are not limited to, representatives of the following groups:

- (1) Licensed attorney with experience in criminal defense who are in no way involved in prosecuting crimes;
- (2) Civic organizations;
- (3) Community-based organizations;
- (4) Community education organizations;
- (5) Local government;
- (6) Local police organizations;
- (7) School boards; and
- (8) Teachers.

The task force will:

- (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 communities located in a county with a charter form of government and with more than 950,000 inhabitants

that contain school districts with a total minority student population that exceeds 50%;

(4) Make recommendations for a state plan for community education that will set 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 a community school within a community containing community relations programs; and

(6) Make recommendations for the funding of a local community relations program and projects, activities, and events that will aid in developing a harmonious rapport between law enforcement officers and youth.