

## Retired Officer Role - Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

HB 2074 which went into effect 09/26/2025, amends ARS 15-154 and expands the definition of "School Resource Officer" to:

- (a) A peace officer
  - (b) A full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the Arizona peace officer standards and training board.
  - (c) *AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED AS A PEACE OFFICER IN THIS STATE, WHO RETIRED IN GOOD STANDING and who is assigned to participate in the school safety program by a law enforcement agency pursuant to section 15-155*
- ARS 15-155.** School safety program: funding
- A. The **department of education** shall cooperate with the county school superintendent, the county sheriff and the local chief of police to allow **a law enforcement agency**, with the consent of the school, **to assign a peace officer**, a **full-authority reserve peace officer** who is certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training board or **an individual who was previously employed as a peace officer in this state and who retired in good standing** to participate in the school safety program in each school in the county. The **cost of the peace officer** is a state charge that is funded by the department of education, except for agreements to share the cost of the school resource officer pursuant to section 15-154, subsection I.

A retired officer does not need to be affiliated with a Law Enforcement Agency to qualify, however, if they *are not*, there are a few things to keep in mind for the officer and the School/School District:

- 1.**Policies:** Whether it is necessary to revise any current firearms policies which disallow weapons to be on campus (which is the case in most schools) to make an exception for a retired officer working as the SRO on that campus. Furthermore, are there any other policies that may be affected by having an armed, retired officer on campus?
- 2.**Liability:** If the District does want to proceed with hiring retired officers, *not belonging to an agency*, working as an armed School Resource Officer, the District/School would take on that liability, should anything happen regarding that firearm. If there is no law enforcement agency involved to assume the liability for the officer, are there any other liabilities that could stem from this arrangement?
- 3.**Limitations to Authority:** A retired officer that *does not currently belong to an agency* would be limited to the same authority as any other civilian/school administrator. Arrests would be limited to a *citizen's arrest*; investigations would be limited to a civilian and/or school administrator's authority and they would be expected to call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- 4.**Program Requirements:** Just as every other SSP funded officer, they will still be required to attend annual training (the 4-day New Officer Training), complete the Activity Logs, facilitate Law Related Education, and participate in program evaluations.

Additionally, ADE will be looking to gather other information regarding retired officers such as:

- Which agency did the Officer retire from?
- What are the officer's service start and end dates?
- How long has the Officer been retired?
- How many/which certifications does the SRO still hold (if any)? AZPOST?

## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Does a Retired Law Enforcement Officer from another state qualify to work under this statute? *No - must have worked as a "peace officer in the state" and "retired in good standing from said Arizona agency" unless a retired officer from another state gets appointed by an Arizona agency to be a "reserve" officer and the out of state officer then goes through AZPOST training and certification. Thus the out of state, retired officer will have a "state sponsoring agency" to acquire and/or maintain in-state certification (AZPOST).*
2. Does a Retired *federal officer/agent* qualify to work under this statute? *No - unless the federal officer has been appointed by a state agency and certified by AZPOST.*
3. Does a Sheriff's Posse member qualify to work under this statute? *No - these are volunteer positions and do not have law enforcement authority in the state of AZ.*
4. Does an Arizona Ranger qualify to work under this statute? *No - these are volunteer positions with no law enforcement authority in the state of AZ.*
5. Do retired Military police qualify to work under this statute? *No - military police have different training and certifications that make them ineligible under this statute.*
6. Can the unaffiliated retired officers only work *full-time* as an SRO? *Yes, hired directly by the school district. Or perhaps part-time, "job-share" hours which would be determined and managed by the school/school district.*
7. Are all Tribal PD officers AZPOST certified? What about dual-certifications (Navajo Nation area)? *Yes, tribal police officers in Arizona are required to be certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (AZPOST) to enforce state and federal laws.*
8. Can the unaffiliated retired officer work part-time as an SSO through ODM? *No, because only AZPOST certified officers can work through ODM and they must have an agency email address to sign up for the Officer Trak app.*
9. Do the Retired Officers who are *unaffiliated with any agency* have to be a direct-hire by the school/school district? *Yes (ADE will still provide the funding to the school directly.)*
10. Does an officer who is LEOSA certified but unaffiliated with a LE agency have the ability to work in our SSP schools? *Yes but only as a direct-hire from the school/school district...considering the four points above: policies, liability, limits to authority, and program requirements. LEOSA does not grant law enforcement authority; it only allows qualified and retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm across state lines.*