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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2257**

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 7, 2025

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-280.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school safety; employment of school security officers; criteria.*

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Patron—Kent

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Referred to Committee on Public Safety

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 22.1-280.2:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 22.1-280.2:1. Employment of school security officers.**

Local school boards and private or religious schools may employ school security officers, as defined in § 9.1-101, for the purposes set forth therein. Such school security officer may carry a firearm in the performance of his duties if (i) ~~within 10 years immediately prior to being~~ *he is age 75 or younger at the time he is hired* by the local school board or private or religious school; (ii) he (a) was an active law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101 in the Commonwealth or (b) was employed by a law-enforcement agency of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof and his duties were substantially similar to those of a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101; ~~(ii)~~ (iii) he retired or resigned from his position as a law-enforcement officer in good standing; ~~(iii)~~ (iv) he meets the training and qualifications described in subsection C of § 18.2-308.016; ~~(iv)~~ (v) he has provided proof of completion of a training course that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency evacuation procedure, and threat assessment to the Department of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to subdivision 42 of § 9.1-102, provided that if he received such training from a local law-enforcement agency he received the training in the locality in which he is employed; ~~(v)~~ (vi) the local school board or private or religious school solicits input from the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality regarding the qualifications of the school security officer and receives verification from such chief law-enforcement officer that the school security officer is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, purchasing, or transporting a firearm; and ~~(vi)~~ (vii) the local school board or private or religious school grants him the authority to carry a firearm in the performance of his duties.

INTRODUCED

HB2257