

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB589

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 14, 2019

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 589 prohibits police officers authorized to make arrests, from serving or working as resource officers in schools.

It does not apply to police officers responding to a specific request for assistance or providing security for an extracurricular activity or event.

It is counterproductive to the purpose and goals of education and its processes, to convert conduct which in the past was handled within the school context, into a basis for arrest and entanglement in the court system with the possibility of being locked up.

Due to the manner in which the program actually operates, it has been characterized as “the pathway from the classroom to the courtroom; from the school house to the jail house.” It operates disproportionately on students of color and those with disabilities, thereby manifesting the same toxic, discriminatory impact found in the society at large.

The presence in schools of persons with arrest powers, rather than contributing to a “learning environment,” and the advancement of educational goals, it has precisely the opposite, negative effect.

The practice warrants termination.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ernie Chambers