

SB298 INTRODUCED



1 SB298
2 2JN1VIS-1
3 By Senator Barfoot
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 12-Feb-26



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 This bill would provide minimum staffing
6 requirements for Class 3 municipal law enforcement
7 agencies. The requirements would include a minimum
8 ratio of two full-time law enforcement officers for
9 every 1,000 residents of the municipality.

10 This bill would establish a five-year compliance
11 period for municipalities not in compliance on the
12 effective date of this act. During this compliance
13 period, the municipality would be required to meet
14 certain goals and increases in staffing.

15 This bill would provide that if a municipality
16 fails to satisfy certain requirements for staffing, the
17 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency would be
18 authorized to assume oversight of the municipal law
19 enforcement agency.

20 This bill would authorize the Attorney General
21 to seek to recoup any costs incurred by the state in
22 the oversight of a municipal law enforcement agency.

23 This bill would also authorize the Alabama State
24 Law Enforcement Agency to adopt rules.

25
26
27 A BILL
28 TO BE ENTITLED



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AN ACT

Relating to Class 3 municipalities; to mandate minimum staffing requirements for municipal law enforcement agencies; to authorize the State of Alabama to assume operational oversight of a municipal police department under certain conditions; to authorize the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency to establish a corrective action plan and take other remedial measures for municipalities in default; and to authorize the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency to adopt rules.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) Each Class 3 municipality shall maintain a minimum ratio of two full-time law enforcement officers for every 1,000 residents of the municipality, as determined by the 2020 federal decennial census.

(b) A Class 3 municipality that does not meet the requirements of subsection (a) on October 1, 2026, shall be granted an initial grace period of five years to achieve full compliance. The municipality shall be exempt from satisfying the requirements of subsection (a) during the grace period, provided the municipality complies with the requirements of subsection (c) and the other applicable provisions of this act.

(c) During the grace period under subsection (b), the municipality shall make annual improvements of not less than 10 percent of the deficit between the current officer ratio and the required ratio provided under subsection (a). Annually



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during the grace period, the governing body of the municipality and the chief of police shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency demonstrating that the municipality is making the required annual improvements.

Section 2. On an annual basis by December 1, the governing body of each Class 3 municipality shall submit all of the following to the Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency:

(1) The number of sworn officers as of October 31 of the current year.

(2) The population used for compliance calculation.

(3) Steps taken to recruit, hire, or train additional officers.

Section 3. (a) If a Class 3 municipality is in violation of Section 1, the State of Alabama, through the Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), may assume operational oversight of the police department of the municipality and may execute one or more of the following actions:

(1) Establish a corrective action plan for the municipality to regain compliance.

(2) Deploy supplemental law enforcement personnel or resources.

(3) Appoint a Chief Administrative Law Enforcement Officer who shall have the authority to act in all matters and for all purposes regarding the police department of the municipality, including, but not limited to, personnel



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actions, administrative procedures, enforcement strategies, and recruitment and retention methods.

(4) Enter into cooperative enforcement agreements with the county sheriff, adjacent jurisdictions, or state agencies.

(b) The operational oversight of the Class 3 municipal police department pursuant to subsection (a) shall continue until the passage of 365 calendar days following the municipality's compliance with the requirements of this act.

Section 4. (a) The State of Alabama and its affected agencies and any supporting political subdivision of the state shall be entitled to full restitution for the cost to deploy supplemental law enforcement officers during any period of operational oversight of a Class 3 municipal police department pursuant to Section 3. Restitution shall include payment, payable to the state and its affected agencies, for costs incurred implementing and administering a period of operational oversight, including the deployment of supplemental law enforcement officers.

(b) On behalf of the State of Alabama and its affected agencies and any supporting political subdivision of the state, the Attorney General shall submit a petition for restitution that shall include all of the following:

(1) The name of the agency requesting restitution.

(2) The name and rank of each supplemental law enforcement officer deployed for operational oversight of the Class 3 municipality.

(3) The number of hours each supplemental law enforcement officer was deployed.



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113 (4) The hourly rate at which each supplemental law
114 enforcement officer was paid, including fringe benefits,
115 mileage, and per diem.

116 (5) The total amount of non-personnel operational costs
117 incurred, including costs for equipment, vehicles, and fuel.

118 (6) The total amount of money requested as restitution
119 by the agency.

120 (7) Any supporting documentation necessary to establish
121 any expenditure under this subsection.

122 (c) The court shall hold a hearing on the petition and
123 shall grant the petition if the court is reasonably satisfied
124 from the evidence that the petitioner has satisfied the
125 requirements of this section.

126 Section 5. The Secretary of the Alabama State Law
127 Enforcement Agency may adopt rules to implement and administer
128 this section.

129 Section 6. This act shall become effective on October
130 1, 2026.