

SB298 INTRODUCED



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



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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.

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27 A BILL
28 TO BE ENTITLED



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AN ACT

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

40 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

53 (c) During the grace period under subsection (b), the
54 municipality shall make annual improvements of not less than
55 10 percent of the deficit between the current officer ratio
56 and the required ratio provided under subsection (a). Annually



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

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

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

68 (2) The population used for compliance calculation.

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

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

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

79 (2) Deploy supplemental law enforcement personnel or
80 resources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

107 (1) The name of the agency requesting restitution.
108 (2) The name and rank of each supplemental law
109 enforcement officer deployed for operational oversight of the
110 Class 3 municipality.

111 (3) The number of hours each supplemental law
112 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.

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