



Senate Education Committee

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SENATE BILL 678-SENATOR SMUCKER

SYNOPSIS:

Clarifies the arrest powers and jurisdiction of campus police officers employed by the state-owned universities.

SUMMARY:

Amends the Public School Code to expand the definition of "grounds". Permits campus police to exercise their authority on campus grounds, including highways, roadways and traffic ways that traverse or abut lands and buildings owned, controlled, leased or managed by the universities of the State System of Higher Education.

Effective Date: 60 days.

Comment:

An October 2014 Superior Court decision affected the jurisdictional authority of campus police. In that decision, the Superior Court determined that a public road running through a state-owned university campus was not part of the primary jurisdiction of university campus police, concluding that the road did not fall within the statutory definition of campus "grounds." As a result, the court held that a campus police officer had no authority to stop a driver for a motor vehicle code violation, and the driver's arrest was overturned.