

HB 1601 -- PEACE OFFICER ACCOUNTABILITY

SPONSOR: Bosley

This bill specifies that the use of a respiratory choke-hold for any purpose other than is authorized by statute will be cause for a peace officer's immediate dismissal and revocation of his or her peace officer license. The bill also requires a peace officer to intervene to prevent or stop another peace officer from using excessive physical force. An officer who intervenes under these provisions must report the intervention to his or her immediate supervisor. When an internal investigation results in a finding that a peace officer failed to intervene, such findings must be presented to the prosecuting attorney to determine whether charges should be filed. If an internal investigation finds that an officer failed to intervene in an incident resulting in serious bodily injury or death to a person, the peace officer's employer must subject the officer to discipline, up to and including termination.

The bill also establishes the "Law Enforcement Accountability Act", which requires all peace officers in the state to wear video cameras that include audio and video affixed to their uniforms when they are on duty, with some exceptions. Recordings must be preserved for at least 60 days and the recordings must be made available to the public within 14 days of an incident.