

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public safety; authorizing a person to record law enforcement activity in certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to the use of physical force by a peace officer; requiring a peace officer to intervene to prevent the use of unjustified physical force by another peace officer in certain circumstances and to report the observation of the use of unjustified physical force by another peace officer; requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt a written policy regarding the drug and alcohol testing of a peace officer in certain circumstances; providing that the newly effective provisions of law reducing the maximum period of probation or suspension of sentence that may be imposed upon a person apply to persons sentenced on or after July 1, 2020; requiring law enforcement agencies to provide a report to the Legislature containing certain information relating to traffic stops and other stops by law enforcement officers and the software used to process certain information during such traffic stops and other stops; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

**Section 1** of this bill authorizes a person who is not under arrest or in the custody of a peace officer to record law enforcement activity in certain circumstances and prohibits a peace officer from interfering with a person's lawful recording of a law enforcement activity.

Existing law provides that when a peace officer is arresting a person, the peace officer is prohibited from subjecting the person to more restraint than is necessary to arrest and detain the person. If the person flees or forcibly resists, the peace officer is authorized to use all means necessary to effect the arrest. (NRS 171.122) Existing law also authorizes a peace officer to use a choke hold on another person only if: (1) the peace officer's employer authorizes the use of a choke hold; and (2) the peace officer completed training regarding the proper use of a choke hold and is certified for its use. (NRS 289.810)

**Section 2** of this bill provides that when a peace officer is arresting a person and the person flees or forcibly resists, the peace officer is generally authorized to use only the amount of reasonable force necessary to effect the arrest. **Section 4** of this bill prohibits a peace officer from: (1) using a choke hold on another person; or (2) placing a person who is in the custody of the peace officer in any position that compresses his or her airway or restricts his or her ability to breathe. **Section 4** also requires a peace officer to monitor any person who is in the custody of the peace officer for any signs of distress and to take any actions necessary to place such a person in a recovery position if he or she appears to be in distress or indicates that he or she cannot breathe. **Section 4** further requires a peace officer to ensure that medical aid is rendered to any person who is injured by the use of physical force by the peace officer. **Sections 7 and 12** of this bill make conforming changes.



**Section 5** of this bill requires a peace officer to: (1) intervene to prevent or stop another peace officer from using unjustified physical force if the peace officer observes or reasonably should have observed the use of such unjustified physical force and it is safe for the peace officer to intervene; and (2) if the peace officer who observes the use of unjustified physical force is a supervisor of the peace officer using the unjustified physical force, issue a direct order to stop the use of such physical force. **Section 5** also requires any peace officer who observes the use of unjustified physical force to report the observation to his or her immediate supervisor or, if the observation involves his or her immediate supervisor, the supervisor of his or her immediate supervisor. **Section 5** additionally prohibits a member of a law enforcement agency from disciplining or retaliating in any way against a peace officer solely for intervening in the use of unjustified physical force or reporting the observation of the use of unjustified physical force. **Section 5** further requires each law enforcement agency to train its peace officers on the duty to intervene in the use of unjustified physical force and the reporting of any observation of the use of unjustified physical force.

**Section 6** of this bill: (1) requires each law enforcement agency to adopt a written policy regarding the drug and alcohol testing of a peace officer following an officer-involved shooting or when the conduct of a peace officer results in substantial bodily harm to or the death of another person; and (2) establishes certain requirements concerning such a written policy.

**Section 9** of this bill requires each law enforcement agency in this State to provide a report to the Legislature on or before November 1, 2020, that includes certain information relating to: (1) traffic stops and other stops by law enforcement officers; and (2) the software used to process the identity or driver's license number of a person during such a traffic stop or other stop.

Section 34 of Assembly Bill No. 236 of the 2019 Legislative Session reduced the maximum period of probation or suspension of sentence that can be imposed upon a person. Such a change became effective on July 1, 2020. (Chapter 633, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at pages 4399 and 4488) **Section 8** of this bill provides that such a change applies to: (1) any offense committed on or after July 1, 2020; and (2) any offense committed before July 1, 2020, if the person is sentenced on or after July 1, 2020. **Section 10** of this bill provides that any person who is sentenced on or after July 1, 2020, and before the date that this bill becomes effective is entitled to have his or her period of probation or suspension of sentence reduced to the maximum applicable period set forth pursuant to the change in law that became effective on July 1, 2020.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 171 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. A person who is not under arrest or in the custody of a peace officer may record a law enforcement activity and maintain custody and control of that recording and any property or instruments used by the person to record a law enforcement activity. A person who is under arrest or in the custody of a peace*



*officer does not, by that status alone, forfeit the right to have any such recordings, property or instruments maintained and returned to him or her. This subsection must not be construed to authorize a person to engage in actions that interfere with or obstruct a law enforcement activity or otherwise violate any other law in an effort to record a law enforcement activity.*

*2. A peace officer shall not act to interfere with a person's recording of a law enforcement activity, including, without limitation, by:*

*(a) Intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent the person from recording a law enforcement activity;*

*(b) Threatening the person for recording a law enforcement activity;*

*(c) Commanding that the person cease recording a law enforcement activity when the person was nevertheless authorized by law to record the law enforcement activity;*

*(d) Stopping, seizing or searching the person because he or she recorded a law enforcement activity; or*

*(e) Unlawfully seizing property or instruments used by the person to record a law enforcement activity, unlawfully destroying or seizing any recorded image of a law enforcement activity or copying such a recording of a law enforcement activity without the consent of the person who recorded it or obtaining approval from an appropriate court.*

*3. As used in this section:*

*(a) "Law enforcement activity" means any activity by a peace officer acting under the color of law.*

*(b) "Peace officer" means any person upon whom some or all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.*

*(c) "Record" means to capture or attempt to capture any moving or still image, sound or impression through the use of any recording device, camera or any other device capable of capturing audio or moving or still images, or by means of written notes or observations. The term includes, without limitation, the capturing of or the attempt to capture any moving or still image, sound or impression through the use of any such device for the purpose of broadcasting an event or occurrence in real time.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 171.122 is hereby amended to read as follows:

171.122 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the warrant must be executed by the arrest of the defendant. The officer need not have the warrant in the officer's possession at the time of the arrest, but upon request the officer must show the warrant to the



defendant as soon as possible. If the officer does not have a warrant in the officer's possession at the time of the arrest, the officer shall then inform the defendant of the officer's intention to arrest the defendant, of the offense charged, the authority to make it and of the fact that a warrant has or has not been issued. The defendant must not be subjected to any more restraint than is necessary for the defendant's arrest and detention. If the defendant either flees or forcibly resists, the officer may, except as otherwise provided in NRS 171.1455, use ~~all~~ *only the amount of reasonable force* necessary ~~means~~ to effect the arrest.

2. In lieu of executing the warrant by arresting the defendant, a peace officer may issue a citation as provided in NRS 171.1773 if:

(a) The warrant is issued upon an offense punishable as a misdemeanor;

(b) The officer has no indication that the defendant has previously failed to appear on the charge reflected in the warrant;

(c) The defendant provides satisfactory evidence of his or her identity to the peace officer;

(d) The defendant signs a written promise to appear in court for the misdemeanor offense; and

(e) The officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant will keep a written promise to appear in court.

3. The summons must be served upon a defendant by delivering a copy to the defendant personally, or by leaving it at the defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with some person then residing in the house or abode who is at least 16 years of age and is of suitable discretion, or by mailing it to the defendant's last known address. In the case of a corporation, the summons must be served at least 5 days before the day of appearance fixed in the summons, by delivering a copy to an officer or to a managing or general agent or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process and, if the agent is one authorized by statute to receive service and the statute so requires, by also mailing a copy to the corporation's last known address within the State of Nevada or at its principal place of business elsewhere in the United States.

**Sec. 3.** Chapter 193 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 4 and 5 of this act.

**Sec. 4. 1. *In carrying out his or her duties, a peace officer shall not use a choke hold on another person.***

**2. *A peace officer shall not place a person who is in the custody of the peace officer in any position which compresses his or her airway or restricts his or her ability to breathe. A peace***



*officer shall monitor any person who is in the custody of the peace officer for any signs of distress and shall take any actions necessary to place such a person in a recovery position if he or she appears to be in distress or indicates that he or she cannot breathe.*

*3. If a peace officer, in carrying out his or her duties, uses physical force on another person, the peace officer shall ensure that medical aid is rendered to any person who is injured by the use of such physical force as soon as practicable.*

*4. As used in this section:*

*(a) “Choke hold” means:*

*(1) A method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to another person to make breathing difficult or impossible, including, without limitation, any pressure to the neck, throat or windpipe that may prevent or hinder breathing or reduce intake of air; or*

*(2) Applying pressure to a person’s neck on either side of the windpipe, but not the windpipe itself, to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries.*

*(b) “Peace officer” means any person upon whom some or all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.*

*(c) “Physical force” means the application of physical techniques, chemical agents or weapons to another person.*

**Sec. 5. 1.** *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a peace officer shall, without regard for chain of command, intervene to prevent or stop another peace officer from using physical force that is not justified in pursuance of the other peace officer’s law enforcement duties in carrying out the arrest of a person, placing a person under detention, taking a person into custody or booking a person. The duty to intervene in the use of physical force that is not justified as required by this subsection only applies if:*

*(a) A peace officer observes the use of physical force that is not justified or reasonably should have observed the use of physical force that is not justified; and*

*(b) The circumstances are such that it is safe for the peace officer to intervene.*

*2. If a peace officer who observes the use of physical force that is not justified is a supervisor of the peace officer who is using such physical force, the peace officer making the observation shall issue a direct order to stop the use of such physical force.*

*3. A peace officer who observes the use of physical force that is not justified shall report the observation to his or her immediate*



*supervisor unless the observation involves his or her immediate supervisor, in which case the peace officer shall report the observation to the supervisor of his or her immediate supervisor. Such a report must:*

*(a) Include, without limitation:*

- (1) The date, time and location of the incident;*
- (2) The identity, if known, and a description of the participants; and*
- (3) A description of the actions taken as a result of the observation.*

*(b) Be made in writing not later than 10 days after the occurrence of the use of physical force and observation and appended to all other reports of the incident.*

*4. A member of a law enforcement agency shall not discipline or retaliate in any way against a peace officer solely for:*

*(a) Intervening in the use of physical force that is not justified as required by subsection 1; or*

*(b) Reporting the observation of the use of physical force that is not justified as required by subsection 3.*

*5. Each law enforcement agency in this State shall train its peace officers on the provisions of this section.*

*6. As used in this section:*

*(a) "Peace officer" means any person upon whom some or all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.*

*(b) "Physical force" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 4 of this act.*

**Sec. 6.** Chapter 289 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. Each law enforcement agency shall adopt a written policy regarding the drug and alcohol testing of a peace officer following an officer-involved shooting or when the conduct of a peace officer results in substantial bodily harm to or the death of another person. The written policy adopted by the law enforcement agency must include the following requirements:*

*(a) Each peace officer who is involved in an officer-involved shooting or whose conduct resulted in substantial bodily harm to or the death of another person must submit to drug and alcohol testing, including, without limitation, testing for the use of cannabis, prescription drugs and illegal drugs; and*

*(b) The drug and alcohol testing must be completed as soon as practicable after the officer-involved shooting or the conduct of the peace officer that resulted in substantial bodily harm to or the*



*death of another person, but not later than the end of the involved peace officer's shift.*

*2. As used in this section, "officer-involved shooting" means any instance when a peace officer discharges his or her firearm during the performance of his or her official duties or in the line of duty and thereby causes injury or death to one or more persons.*

**Sec. 7.** NRS 289.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

289.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Administrative file" means any file of a peace officer containing information, comments or documents about the peace officer. The term does not include any file relating to an investigation conducted pursuant to NRS 289.057 or a criminal investigation of a peace officer.

2. ~~["Choke hold" means the holding of a person's neck in a manner specifically intended to restrict the flow of oxygen or blood to the person's lungs or brain. The term includes the arm bar restraint, carotid restraint and lateral vascular neck restraint.~~

~~—3.]~~ "Law enforcement agency" means any agency, office, bureau, department, unit or division created by any statute, ordinance or rule which:

(a) Has a duty to enforce the law; and

(b) Employs any person upon whom some or all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.

~~[4.]~~ 3. "Peace officer" means any person upon whom some or all of the powers of a peace officer are conferred pursuant to NRS 289.150 to 289.360, inclusive.

~~[5.]~~ 4. "Punitive action" means any action which may lead to dismissal, demotion, suspension, reduction in salary, written reprimand or transfer of a peace officer for purposes of punishment.

**Sec. 8.** Chapter 633, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 4488, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be designated as section 135.3, immediately following section 135, to read as follows:

*Sec. 135.3. The amendatory provisions of section 34 of this act apply to:*

*1. An offense committed on or after July 1, 2020; and*

*2. An offense committed before July 1, 2020, if the person is sentenced on or after July 1, 2020.*

**Sec. 9.** 1. On or before November 1, 2020, each law enforcement agency in this State shall provide a report containing



the following information to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature:

(a) Information concerning traffic stops and other stops, including, without limitation:

(1) The way in which traffic stops and other stops are recorded and what is included in such recordings;

(2) The period for which recordings of traffic stops and other stops are maintained; and

(3) The information that is collected and maintained relating to traffic stops and other stops, including, without limitation, any information relating to the identity of a person and any geographic information relating to the stop.

(b) Information concerning the software used to process the identity or driver's license number of a person during a traffic stop or other stop, including, without limitation:

(1) The name of the provider of the software used in law enforcement vehicles and law enforcement dispatch offices to process the identity or driver's license number of a person; and

(2) Information regarding the data collected through the use of the software, including, without limitation:

(I) Whether the software tracks queries through the use of unique identifiers such as identifiers for software users;

(II) Whether there are any limitations on the history of the data collected through the use of the software, including, without limitation, whether there is only a certain amount of history that is stored and whether the history is ever cleared; and

(III) Whether there are any limitations on accessing the data collected through the use of the software, including, without limitation, who is authorized to request the data and how the data can be requested.

2. As used in this section:

(a) "Law enforcement agency" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 289.010.

(b) "Other stop" means any occasion when a person is halted by a law enforcement officer for an alleged violation of law, or any other purpose.

(c) "Traffic stop" means any occasion when the driver of a motor vehicle is halted by a law enforcement officer for an alleged traffic violation or infraction, or any other purpose.

**Sec. 10.** If, pursuant to the provisions of NRS 176A.500 as that section existed before July 1, 2020, a person is sentenced on or after July 1, 2020, and before the effective date of this act to a period of probation or suspension of sentence that exceeds the





maximum period of probation set forth in NRS 176A.500 as that section existed on July 1, 2020, the person is entitled to have his or her period of probation or suspension of sentence reduced to the maximum applicable period of probation or suspension of sentence set forth in NRS 176A.500 as that section existed on July 1, 2020.

**Sec. 11.** Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 218D.430 and 218D.435, a committee may vote on this act before the expiration of the period prescribed for the return of a fiscal note in NRS 218D.475. This section applies retroactively from and after July 30, 2020.

**Sec. 12.** NRS 289.590 and 289.810 are hereby repealed.

**Sec. 13.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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