

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2537

By: Humphrey

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to criminal procedure; amending 22
8 O.S. 2021, Sections 34.1 and 34.2, which relate to
9 the use of excessive force by peace officers;
10 clarifying standard by which excessive force is
11 measured; defining term; modifying elements of
12 certain defined term; deleting requirement to adopt
13 excessive force policies or guidelines; directing law
14 enforcement entities to adopt policies or guidelines
15 concerning the use of force; and providing an
16 effective date.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 34.1, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 34.1 A. Any peace officer, as defined in Section 648
21 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, who uses excessive force in
22 pursuance of such officer's law enforcement duties shall be subject
23 to the criminal laws of this state to the same degree as any other
24 citizen, if excessive force is established as an element of any
alleged violation under the criminal laws of this state. As used in
this section and Section 34.2 of this title, "law enforcement

1 duties" means duties carried out while acting as a peace officer
2 pursuant to Section 99a of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 B. As used in this ~~act~~ section and Section 34.2 of this title,
4 "excessive force" means physical force which exceeds the degree of
5 physical force reasonably permitted by law ~~or the policies and~~
6 ~~guidelines of the law enforcement entity.~~ The use of excessive
7 force shall be presumed when a peace officer continues to apply
8 physical force in excess of the force permitted by law ~~or said~~
9 ~~policies and guidelines~~ to a person who has been rendered incapable
10 of resisting arrest.

11 ~~C. Each law enforcement entity which employs any peace officer~~
12 ~~shall adopt policies or guidelines concerning the use of force by~~
13 ~~peace officers which shall be complied with by peace officers in~~
14 ~~carrying out the duties of such officers within the jurisdiction of~~
15 ~~the law enforcement entity.~~

16 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 34.2, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 34.2 A. Each law enforcement entity which employs any
19 peace officer shall adopt policies or guidelines concerning the use
20 of force by peace officers employed by the entity.

21 B. Any peace officer, except a newly employed officer during
22 such officer's probationary period, who, in pursuance of such
23 officer's law enforcement duties, witnesses another peace officer,
24 in pursuance of such other peace officer's law enforcement duties in

1 carrying out an arrest of any person, placing any person under
2 detention, taking any person into custody, booking any person, or in
3 the process of crowd control or riot control, use physical force
4 which exceeds the degree of physical force permitted by law or by
5 the policies and guidelines of the law enforcement entity, shall
6 report such use of excessive force to such officer's immediate
7 supervisor.

8 ~~B.~~ C. At a minimum, the report required by this section shall
9 include:

- 10 1. The date, time, and place of the occurrence;
- 11 2. The identity, if known, and description of the participants;
- 12 3. A description of the events and the force used.

13 ~~C.~~ D. A copy of an arrest report or other similar report
14 required as a part of a peace officer's duties can be substituted
15 for the report required by this section, as long as it includes the
16 information specified in subsection ~~B~~ C of this section. The report
17 shall be made in writing within ten (10) days of the occurrence of
18 the use of such force.

19 ~~D.~~ E. Any peace officer who fails to report such use of
20 excessive force in the manner prescribed in this section, or who
21 knowingly makes a materially false statement which the officer does
22 not believe to be true in any report made pursuant to this section,
23 upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

59-1-5545 GRS 01/10/23