



The Law Enforcement Community Opposes Senate Amendment #2 to HB 163

Senate Amendment #2 to HB 163 affects every community in Illinois. The so-called “reforms” that are part of House Bill 163 as amended would destroy law enforcement's ability to keep communities safe. The authors of this legislation are not law enforcement professionals with hundreds of years of combined experience and this bill was drafted without law enforcement input, and because of that the long-term unintended consequences of this legislation would be dire. The Illinois Law Enforcement Coalition recently enumerated its Safe Communities plan, a sensible approach to modernizing Illinois law enforcement, but House Bill 163 as amended would lead to unsafe communities in Illinois. We urge the Illinois General Assembly to avoid making a sudden, rash decision in the Lamé Duck Session and instead work carefully with all stakeholders to truly examine what needs to be done regarding law enforcement in Illinois.

Specifically, the legislation does the following:

- Defunds police departments by removing funding sources and interrupting as much as 40% of the total Local Government Distributive Fund monies
- Significantly limits use of no knock warrants
- Makes significant changes to Use of Force, including Total Ban on Chokeholds or action above the shoulders under ANY circumstances
- No use of rubber bullets in crowd control
- Eliminates virtually all collective bargaining over any subject except for wages for over 50,000 law enforcement officers in the State
- Mandates expensive policies and procedures without any way for local governments to pay for them, including body cameras.
- Eliminates qualified immunity for police officers and expressly applies punitive unbalanced civil penalties to police officers.
- Allows officers to be punished for unverified, anonymous complaints. Eliminates sworn affidavits.
- Requires police to provide 3 phone calls within one hour.
- Eliminates Felony Murder

- Requires a predicate offense to charge someone with resisting arrest.
- Allows courts to courts to bypass mandatory minimums in some circumstances

Law Enforcement, crime victims and the public at large will be severely harmed by this legislation. This approach to police reform lacks balance, due process and any input from professional law enforcement organizations.

Vote no on Senate Amendment #2 to HB 163