



Reforms Enacted or Introduced Regarding Accountability for Law Enforcement Personnel

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| Enacted Laws |
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Police Reform Law — P.A. 99-0352 (2015)

Independent Investigations of Officer-Involved Deaths

Every agency must have a written policy. At least two investigators required, including a certified Lead Homicide Investigator, and generally from outside the officer's agency.

Public Reporting of Findings

If no charges are filed in an officer-involved death, investigators must release a public report explaining the outcome.

Ban on Chokeholds

Officers prohibited from using chokeholds except when deadly force is legally justified.

Body Cameras and Video Standards

Creates rules for officer-worn and in-car cameras, including retention, reporting, and statewide guidelines.

Stop Receipts & Documentation

Officers must provide written receipts for stops, including the reason and the officer's name/badge number.

Uniform Crime Reporting

State Police serve as central repository for crime data. Agencies must submit monthly reports on shootings, arrest-related deaths, school incidents, and homicides.

Officer Misconduct Database

Police agencies must notify the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board of misconduct findings, which are logged in a statewide database.

Enhanced Training Standards

Officers must complete regular training on constitutional authority, civil rights, cultural competency, and scenario-based use-of-force exercises.

Crime Lab Accountability

Dedicated funding for the State Crime Lab, monthly backlog reports, and an electronic tracking system for forensic evidence.

Special Prosecutor Process

Establishes procedures for appointing a special prosecutor if a State's Attorney has a conflict of interest in a case involving law enforcement.

SAFE-T Act — Public Act 101-0652 (2021)

This is the big omnibus criminal justice reform law. Some of its accountability-oriented features include:

- Reforms to police use of force, including limits on deadly force, a ban on chokeholds that goes beyond the prohibition established in P.A. 99-0352, requirements to provide medical aid after using force, and a duty to intervene if another officer is using excessive force.
- Requirement that all law enforcement agencies use body cameras by 2025.
- Stronger reporting and transparency: reporting of deaths in custody, use of force incidents, disciplinary records, and maintaining a state registry or database of officer misconduct and decertification.
- Decertification process for officers with misconduct records.
- Changes to collective bargaining so that disciplinary processes are less constrained, in part by removing some protections that had shielded misconduct investigations.

Sonya Massey Bill — Public Act 104-0158 (2025)

Recently passed, this law adds requirements for candidates for law enforcement to release full background information, to bolster transparency and oversight for those entering into policing roles.

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| Introduced Legislation That Did Not Pass |
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“Bad Apples in Law Enforcement Accountability Act of 2021” (HB 1727)

This legislation proposed to create a civil right of action for people whose rights under the Illinois Constitution have been violated by peace officers (including by failure to intervene). It explicitly disallows use of sovereign, statutory immunity, or qualified immunity as a defense under this law, in relevant cases. *Did not pass out of the House.*