

**E2SHB 1310** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Law & Justice

**NOT ADOPTED 04/10/2021**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that  
4 additional clarity is necessary following the passage of Initiative  
5 Measure No. 940 (chapter 1, Laws of 2019) and Substitute House Bill  
6 No. 1064 (chapter 4, Laws of 2019). The legislature intends to  
7 address excessive force and discriminatory policing by establishing a  
8 requirement for law enforcement and community corrections officers to  
9 act with reasonable care when carrying out their duties, including  
10 using de-escalation tactics and alternatives to deadly force.  
11 Further, the legislature intends to address public safety concerns by  
12 limiting the use of deadly force to very narrow circumstances where  
13 there is an imminent threat of serious physical injury or death. It  
14 is the intent of the legislature that when practicable, peace  
15 officers will use the least amount of physical force necessary to  
16 overcome actual resistance under the circumstances.

17 It is the fundamental duty of law enforcement to preserve and  
18 protect all human life.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
20 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
21 otherwise.

22 (1) "Law enforcement agency" includes any "general authority  
23 Washington law enforcement agency" and any "limited authority  
24 Washington law enforcement agency" as those terms are defined in RCW  
25 10.93.020.

26 (2) "Less lethal alternatives" include, but are not limited to,  
27 verbal warnings, de-escalation tactics, conducted energy weapons,  
28 devices that deploy oleoresin capsicum, batons, and beanbag rounds.

29 (3) "Peace officer" includes any "general authority Washington  
30 peace officer," "limited authority Washington peace officer," and  
31 "specially commissioned Washington peace officer" as those terms are

1 defined in RCW 10.93.020; however, "peace officer" does not include  
2 any corrections officer or other employee of a jail, correctional, or  
3 detention facility, but does include any community corrections  
4 officer.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided under  
6 this section, a peace officer may use physical force against a person  
7 when necessary to: Protect against criminal conduct where there is  
8 probable cause to make an arrest; effect an arrest; prevent an escape  
9 as defined under chapter 9A.76 RCW; or protect against an imminent  
10 threat of bodily injury to the peace officer, another person, or the  
11 person against whom force is being used.

12 (b) A peace officer may use deadly force against another person  
13 only when necessary to protect against an imminent threat of serious  
14 physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

15 (2) A peace officer shall use reasonable care when determining  
16 whether to use physical force and when using any physical force  
17 against another person. To that end, a peace officer shall:

18 (a) When possible, exhaust available and appropriate de-  
19 escalation tactics prior to using any physical force, such as:  
20 Creating physical distance by employing tactical repositioning and  
21 repositioning as often as necessary to maintain the benefit of time,  
22 distance, and cover; when there are multiple officers, designating  
23 one officer to communicate in order to avoid competing commands;  
24 calling for additional resources such as a crisis intervention team  
25 or mental health professional when possible; calling for back-up  
26 officers when encountering resistance; taking as much time as  
27 necessary, without using physical force or weapons; and leaving the  
28 area if there is no threat of imminent harm or no crime is being  
29 committed;

30 (b) When using physical force, use the least amount of physical  
31 force necessary to overcome resistance under the circumstances. This  
32 includes a consideration of the characteristics and conditions of a  
33 person for the purposes of determining whether to use force against  
34 that person and, if force is necessary, determining the appropriate  
35 and least amount of force possible to effect a lawful purpose. Such  
36 characteristics and conditions may include, for example, whether the  
37 person: Is visibly pregnant, or states that they are pregnant; is  
38 known to be a minor, objectively appears to be a minor, or states  
39 that they are a minor; is known to be a vulnerable adult, or

1 objectively appears to be a vulnerable adult as defined in RCW  
2 74.34.020; displays signs of mental, behavioral, or physical  
3 impairments or disabilities; is experiencing perceptual or cognitive  
4 impairments typically related to the use of alcohol, narcotics,  
5 hallucinogens, or other drugs; is suicidal; has limited English  
6 proficiency; or is in the presence of children;

7 (c) Terminate the use of physical force as soon as the necessity  
8 for such force ends;

9 (d) When possible, use available and appropriate less lethal  
10 alternatives before using deadly force; and

11 (e) Make less lethal alternatives issued to the officer  
12 reasonably available for their use.

13 (3) A peace officer may not use any force tactics prohibited by  
14 applicable departmental policy, this chapter, or otherwise by law,  
15 except to protect his or her life or the life of another person from  
16 an imminent threat.

17 (4) Nothing in this section prevents a law enforcement agency or  
18 political subdivision of this state from adopting policies or  
19 standards with additional requirements for de-escalation and greater  
20 restrictions on the use of physical and deadly force than provided in  
21 this section.

22 (5) For the purposes of this chapter:

23 (a) "Imminent threat" means that, based on the totality of the  
24 circumstances, it is objectively reasonable to believe that a person  
25 has the present and apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to  
26 immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer  
27 or another person.

28 (b) "Necessary" means that, under the totality of the  
29 circumstances, a reasonably effective alternative to the use of  
30 deadly force does not exist, and that the amount of force used was a  
31 reasonable and proportional response to the threat posed to the  
32 officer and others.

33 (c) "Totality of the circumstances" means all facts known to the  
34 peace officer leading up to and at the time of the use of force, and  
35 includes the actions of the person against whom the peace officer  
36 uses such force, and the actions of the peace officer.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) By July 1, 2022, the attorney general  
38 shall develop and publish model policies on law enforcement's use of

1 force and de-escalation tactics consistent with section 3 of this  
2 act.

3 (2) By December 1, 2022, all law enforcement agencies shall:  
4 Adopt policies consistent with the model policies and submit copies  
5 of the applicable policies to the attorney general; or, if the agency  
6 did not adopt policies consistent with the model policies, provide  
7 notice to the attorney general stating the reasons for any departures  
8 from the model policies and an explanation of how the agency's  
9 policies are consistent with section 3 of this act, including a copy  
10 of the agency's relevant policies. After December 1, 2022, whenever a  
11 law enforcement agency modifies or repeals any policies pertaining to  
12 the use of force or de-escalation tactics, the agency shall submit  
13 notice of such action with copies of any relevant policies to the  
14 attorney general within 60 days.

15 (3) By December 31st of each year, the attorney general shall  
16 publish on its website a report on the requirements of this section,  
17 including copies of the model policies, information as to the status  
18 of individual agencies' policies, and copies of any agency policies  
19 departing from the model policies.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101  
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 The basic training provided to criminal justice personnel by the  
23 commission must be consistent with the standards in section 3 of this  
24 act and the model policies established by the attorney general under  
25 section 4 of this act.

26 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.101.450 and 2019 c 1 s 3 (Initiative Measure No.  
27 940) are each amended to read as follows:

28 (1) Beginning one year after December 6, 2018, all law  
29 enforcement officers in the state of Washington must receive violence  
30 de-escalation training. Law enforcement officers beginning employment  
31 after December 6, 2018, must successfully complete such training  
32 within the first (~~fifteen~~) 15 months of employment. The commission  
33 shall set the date by which other law enforcement officers must  
34 successfully complete such training.

35 (2) All law enforcement officers shall periodically receive  
36 continuing violence de-escalation training to practice their skills,  
37 update their knowledge and training, and learn about new legal  
38 requirements and violence de-escalation strategies.

1 (3) The commission shall set training requirements through the  
2 procedures in RCW 43.101.455.

3 (4) Violence de-escalation training provided under this section  
4 must be consistent with section 3 of this act and the model policies  
5 established by the attorney general under section 4 of this act.

6 (5) The commission shall submit a report to the legislature and  
7 the governor by January 1st and July 1st of each year on the  
8 implementation of and compliance with subsections (1) and (2) of this  
9 section. The report must include data on compliance by agencies and  
10 officers. The report may also include recommendations for any changes  
11 to laws and policies necessary to improve compliance with subsections  
12 (1) and (2) of this section.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. RCW 10.31.050 (Officer may use force) and  
14 2010 c 8 s 1031, Code 1881 s 1031, 1873 p 229 s 211, & 1854 p 114 s  
15 75 are each repealed.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. Sections 2 through 4 of this act  
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 10 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. If specific funding for the purposes of  
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
20 provided by June 30, 2021, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
21 act is null and void."

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22 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "officers;" strike the  
23 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.101.450; adding a  
24 new section to chapter 43.101 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 10  
25 RCW; creating new sections; and repealing RCW 10.31.050."

EFFECT: Adjusts intent language; includes verbal warnings and de-  
escalation tactics as less lethal alternatives that should be  
considered by peace officers; prohibits a peace officer from using  
force tactics prohibited by agency policy except to protect his or  
her life or the life of another person from an imminent threat;  
clarifies a political subdivision in this state may adopt more  
stringent standards regarding the use of physical force than provided  
by law; rather than requiring a peace officer use only the minimal  
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degree of physical force necessary, the officer must use the least amount of force necessary; and authorizes a peace officer to use physical force to protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to the person against whom force is being used.

--- **END** ---