

SENATE, No. 2617

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton and Cunningham

SYNOPSIS

Establishes crime of law enforcement officer choking another person; designated as George Floyd's Law.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/13/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement, designated as George Floyd's
2 Law, and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. As used in this act, "law enforcement officer" means a
8 person whose public duties include the power to act as an officer for
9 the detection, apprehension, arrest, and conviction of offenders
10 against the laws of this State and who is acting in the performance
11 of the officer's duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence of
12 the officer's authority or status.

13 b. A law enforcement officer who knowingly places pressure
14 on a person's throat, windpipe, or carotid artery, thereby hindering
15 or preventing that person's ability to breathe, or interfering with the
16 flow of blood from the person's heart to the brain, shall be guilty of
17 a crime of the first degree.

18

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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22 STATEMENT

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24 This bill establishes a first degree crime of a law enforcement
25 officer choking another person.

26 Under the bill, a law enforcement officer who knowingly places
27 pressure on a person's throat, windpipe, or carotid artery, thereby
28 hindering or preventing that person's ability to breathe, or
29 interfering with the flow of blood from the person's heart to the
30 brain, is guilty of a crime of the first degree. First degree crimes
31 are punishable by a prison term of 10 to 20 years, a fine of up to
32 \$200,000, or both.

33 On June 5, 2020, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General
34 issued notice that it will ban police departments from using
35 chokeholds, carotid artery neck restraints, or similar tactics, except
36 where deadly force is necessary. This bill prohibits these
37 chokeholds. The bill is designated as George Floyd's Law, after
38 George Floyd, who died while being choked by a Minneapolis law
39 enforcement officer during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit
40 bill.