

PEACE OFFICER AMENDMENTS

2020 FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill prohibits training peace officers in the use of chokeholds or restraints that may cause unconsciousness, and prohibits a peace officer's use of such a restraint.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ prohibits the approval of peace officer training curriculum which contains the use of chokeholds or other restraints that may cause unconsciousness;
- ▶ prohibits the inclusion of training of peace officers in the use of chokeholds, carotid restraints, or other methods of restraint that may impede breathing or blood circulation and cause unconsciousness;
- ▶ prohibits a peace officer from employing a "knee on the neck" method of restraint that may impede breathing or blood circulation and cause unconsciousness.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53-6-105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 313

53-6-202, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 313

ENACTS:

53-13-115, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-6-105** is amended to read:

53-6-105. Duties of director -- Powers -- Rulemaking.

(1) The director, with the advice of the council, shall:

33 (a) prescribe standards for the certification of a peace officer training academy, certify
34 an academy that meets the prescribed standards, and prescribe standards for revocation of
35 certification for cause;

36 (b) prescribe minimum qualifications for certification of peace officers appointed or
37 elected to enforce the laws of this state and its subdivisions and prescribe standards for
38 revocation of certification for cause;

39 (c) establish minimum requirements for the certification of training instructors and
40 establish standards for revocation of certification;

41 (d) provide for the issuance of appropriate certificates to those peace officers
42 completing the basic training programs offered by a certified academy or those persons who
43 pass a certification examination as provided for in this chapter;

44 (e) consult and cooperate with certified academy administrators and instructors for the
45 continued development and improvement of the basic training programs provided by the
46 certified academy and for the further development and implementation of advanced in-service
47 training programs;

48 (f) consult and cooperate with state institutions of higher education to develop
49 specialized courses of study for peace officers in the areas of criminal justice, police
50 administration, criminology, social sciences, and other related disciplines;

51 (g) consult and cooperate with other departments, agencies, and local governments
52 concerned with peace officer training;

53 (h) perform any other acts necessary to develop peace officer training programs within
54 the state;

55 (i) report to the council at regular meetings of the council and when the council
56 requires;

57 (j) recommend peace officer standards and training requirements to the commissioner,
58 governor, and the Legislature; and

59 (k) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
60 director shall, with the advice of the council, make rules necessary to administer this chapter.

61 (2) With the permission of the commissioner, the director may execute contracts on
62 behalf of the division with criminal justice agencies to provide training for employees of those
63 agencies if:

(a) the employees or the employing agency pay a registration fee equivalent to the cost of the training; and

(b) the contract does not reduce the effectiveness of the division in its primary responsibility of providing training for peace officers of the state.

(3) The director may:

(a) revoke certification of a certified academy for cause; and

(b) make training aids and materials available to local law enforcement agencies.

(4) The director shall, with the advice of the council, make rules:

(a) establishing minimum requirements for the certification of dispatcher training instructors in a certified academy or interagency program and standards for revocation of this certification;

(b) establishing approved curriculum and a basic schedule for the basic dispatcher training course and the content of the dispatcher certification examination;

(c) providing for the issuance of appropriate certificates to a person who completes the basic dispatcher course or who passes a dispatcher certification examination as provided for in this chapter;

(d) establishing approved courses for certified dispatchers' annual training; and

(e) establishing a reinstatement procedure for a certified dispatcher who has not obtained the required annual training hours.

(5) The director may not, in approving and reviewing curriculum and training aids for academies, approve or recommend any curriculum which includes the use of chokeholds, carotid restraints, or any act that impedes the breathing or circulation of blood likely to produce a loss of consciousness, as a valid method of restraint.

Section 2. Section **53-6-202** is amended to read:

53-6-202. Basic training course -- Completion required -- Annual training -- Prohibition from exercising powers -- Reinstatement.

(1) (a) The director shall:

(i) (A) suggest and prepare subject material; and

(B) schedule instructors for basic training courses; or

(ii) review the material and instructor choices submitted by a certified academy.

(b) The subject material, instructors, and schedules shall be approved or disapproved

95 by a majority vote of the council.

96 (2) The materials shall be reviewed and approved by the council on or before July 1st
97 of each year and may from time to time be changed or amended by majority vote of the council.

98 (3) The basic training in a certified academy:

99 (a) shall be appropriate for the basic training of peace officers in the techniques of law
100 enforcement in the discretion of the director[-]; and

101 (b) may not include the use of chokeholds, carotid restraints, or any act that impedes
102 the breathing or circulation of blood likely to produce a loss of consciousness, as a valid
103 method of restraint.

104 (4) (a) All peace officers must satisfactorily complete the basic training course or the
105 waiver process provided for in this chapter as well as annual certified training of not less than
106 40 hours as the director, with the advice and consent of the council, directs.

107 (b) A peace officer who fails to satisfactorily complete the annual training shall
108 automatically be prohibited from exercising peace officer powers until any deficiency is made
109 up.

110 Section 3. Section **53-13-115** is enacted to read:

111 **53-13-115. Peace officer restraint prohibition.**

112 (1) A peace officer may not restrain a person by the application of a knee applying
113 pressure to the neck or throat of a person.

114 (2) Any violation of this section shall be referred to the county or district attorney for
115 review, and to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council for investigation.

116 (3) Violation of this section is an aggravated assault in violation of Section 76-5-103.

117 Section 4. **Effective date.**

118 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect
119 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
120 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,
121 the date of veto override.