

By: Meza

H.B. No. 562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to law enforcement policies regarding de-escalation and proportionate response.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 2.33 to read as follows:

Art. 2.33. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY ON DE-ESCALATION AND PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE. (a) In this article, "law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(b) Each law enforcement agency in this state shall adopt a detailed written policy regarding the use of force by peace officers employed by the agency. The policy must:

(1) emphasize the use of conflict de-escalation techniques; and

(2) authorize force to be used by officers only after attempts to de-escalate a situation have failed.

SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, each law enforcement agency in this state shall adopt the policy required by Article 2.33, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.