

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 1513

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to law enforcement policies prohibiting a peace officer
3 from using less lethal projectiles for the purpose of controlling
4 the activity or movement of a gathering of people.

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

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

8 Art. 2.33. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY PROHIBITING USE OF
9 CERTAIN AMMUNITION FOR CROWD CONTROL. (a) In this article:

10 (1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the
11 state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state
12 authorized by law to employ peace officers.

13 (2) "Less lethal projectile" means ammunition that is
14 discharged from a firearm or other device for the purpose of
15 incapacitating or substantially diminishing the capacity of the
16 target by inflicting blunt trauma and that is designed to reduce the
17 risk of serious bodily injury or death compared to more commonly
18 used ammunition such as bullets or other projectiles composed
19 primarily or entirely of metal. The term includes ammunition
20 commonly known as "rubber bullets," "wooden bullets," "sponge
21 rounds," and "bean bag rounds."

22 (b) Each law enforcement agency in this state shall adopt a
23 policy on crowd control that prohibits a peace officer employed by
24 the agency from using less lethal projectiles as a means to control

1 the activity or movement of a gathering of people.

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

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