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HB 286: Restricting Local and Municipal Governments' Ability to Reduce Police Department Funding

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Amend Chapter 8 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Relating to Local Government, so as to Restrict the Ability of County Governing Authorities to Reduce Funding for County Police Departments; to Amend Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Relating to General Provisions Applicable to Municipal Corporations, so as to Restrict the Ability of Municipal or Consolidated Government Authorities to Reduce Funding for Municipal Police Departments; to Provide for Exceptions; to Provide for Related Matters; to Repeal Conflicting Laws; and for Other Purposes.

CODE SECTIONS: O.C.G.A. §§ 36-8-8 (new); 36-60-28 (new); 45-1-8 (new)
BILL NUMBER: HB 286
ACT NUMBER: 263
GEORGIA LAWS: 2021 Ga. Laws 263
SUMMARY: The Act primarily functions to restrict the ability of county and municipal or consolidated government authorities to reduce funding for county and municipal police departments. In addition, the Act provides exceptions for police departments with less than twenty-five officers.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

History

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd died after police officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes and twenty-seven seconds.¹ In the weeks following Floyd's death, protests against

1. Tamika Cody, *What Are the Origins of 'Defund the Police?'*, WTSP-TV, <https://www.wtsp.com/article/features/defund-the-police-origin/67-9271557c-89e0-48ab-8e45-fa0dd1ae9c09> [https://perma.cc/6FL4-NVRT] (July 15, 2020, 4:17 PM) (approximately forty-five seconds longer than disclosed in the police report).

police brutality broke out within Black American communities.² Demonstrators began protesting nationwide with hopes of defunding the police.³ “DefundThePolice” became a trending hashtag after the Black Lives Matter Foundation put out a call of action on its website and social media platforms to mitigate police brutality.⁴

In the wake of nationwide calls to defund the police, government officials in several major U.S. cities have made significant cuts to their local police budgets.⁵ Two months after George Floyd’s death, the Minneapolis City Council removed \$1.1 million out of the police department’s budget.⁶ Following suit in the now national Defund the Police movement, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a \$1 billion cut in its police department’s budget in early July.⁷ Additionally, both Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Councils approved cuts to their police budgets shortly after New York City.⁸

As the Defund the Police movement spread throughout Georgia, many cities within the state began to push for a cut in police budgets.⁹ When Representative Houston Gaines (R-117th) noticed a push by other Georgia cities to cut their police budgets, he worried that lower police funding would negatively affect the safety of his district, which includes Athens, Georgia.¹⁰ This concern shaped his creation and introduction of House Bill (HB) 286.¹¹

2. Julian Baron, *How ‘Defund the Police’ Has Taken Shape Across the Country*, FOX45NEWS (Nov. 12, 2020), <https://foxbaltimore.com/account/nationwide-cities-cut-police-defund-the-police> [<https://perma.cc/7UNL-DEVR>].

3. *Id.*

4. Cody, *supra* note 1.

5. *Id.*

6. Baron, *supra* note 2.

7. *Id.*

8. *Id.*

9. Telephone Interview with Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th) (May 26, 2021) (on file with the Georgia State University Law Review).

10. *Id.*

11. *Id.*

*Bill Tracking of HB 286**Consideration and Passage by the House*

Representative Houston Gaines (R-117th) was joined by five co-sponsors in the House: Representative Trey Kelley (R-16th), Representative Katie Dempsey (R-13th), Representative Marcus Wiedower (R-119th), Representative J. Collins (R-68th), and Representative Joseph Gullett (R-19th).¹² HB 286 was placed in the House hopper on February 3, 2021.¹³ The House read the bill for the first time on February 4, 2021, and for the second time on February 8, 2021.¹⁴ The House Committee on Governmental Affairs favorably reported the bill by substitute on February 18, 2021.¹⁵ The substitute created two exceptions that allow a county to decrease the police budget by more than 5% of the previous year's budget allocation.¹⁶ The first exception allows counties and municipalities to decrease their police budgets if they increased their budgets by more than 4% for capital, equipment, software purchases, or one-time legal obligations in the previous year.¹⁷ The second exception allows exemptions from the bill for county or municipality departments that employ fewer than ten full-time or part-time officers.¹⁸ The House read the bill for the third time on February 24, 2021.¹⁹ The same day, the House passed and adopted the bill by a vote of 101 to 69.²⁰

12. Georgia General Assembly, HB 286, Bill Tracking [hereinafter HB 286, Bill Tracking], <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/59296>.

13. *Id.*

14. *Id.*; State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, Mar. 16, 2021.

15. HB 286, Bill Tracking, *supra* note 12; State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, Mar. 16, 2021.

16. HB 286 (HCS), § 1, pp. 2–3, 5, 2021 Ga. Gen. Assemb.

17. *Compare id.* § 1, pp. 2–3, 5, with HB 286, as introduced, § 1, pp. 2–3, 5, 2021 Ga. Gen. Assemb.

18. HB 286 (HCS), § 1, pp. 2–3, 5, 2021 Ga. Gen. Assemb.

19. State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, May 13, 2021.

20. Georgia House of Representatives Voting Record, HB 286, #372 (Mar. 31, 2021).

Consideration and Passage by the Senate

Senator Randy Robertson (R-29th) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.²¹ The Senate read the bill for the first time on February 25, 2021, and referred the bill to the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight.²² On March 15, 2021, the bill was withdrawn from the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and recommitted to the Senate Committee on Public Safety.²³ On March 17, 2021, the Senate Committee on Public Safety favorably reported the bill by substitute.²⁴ The substitute addressed some of the bill's exceptions by changing the exclusion of any county or municipal police departments with fewer than ten full-time or part-time officers to twenty-five full-time or part-time officers.²⁵ Further, the substitute added a section defining "correctional officer," "emergency health worker," "ERISA," "firefighter," "highway emergency response operator," "jail officer," "juvenile correctional officer," "probation officer," and "public safety employee."²⁶ Finally, the substitute amended Chapter 1 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia to include that all counties and municipalities that offer electronic payroll deposits must also provide payroll deductions to any public safety employee who requests a deduction for the purpose of purchasing insurance that provides the employee with legal representation for all actions that are caused due to their role or responsibilities as a public safety employee.²⁷

The Senate read the bill for the second time on March 22, 2021, and for the third time on March 25, 2021.²⁸ On the same day, the Senate passed and adopted the bill by substitute by a vote of 36 to 15.²⁹ The House agreed to the Senate substitute on March 31, 2021.³⁰ The House sent the bill to Governor Brian Kemp (R) on April 7, 2021, and he

21. HB 286, Bill Tracking, *supra* note 12.

22. State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, May 13, 2021.

23. *Id.*

24. *Id.*

25. Compare HB 286 (SCS), §§ 1-3, pp. 1, 3, 5-7, 2021 Ga. Gen. Assemb., with HB 286, as introduced, § 1, pp. 2-3, 5, 2021 Ga. Gen. Assemb.

26. Compare HB 286 (SCS), §§ 1-3, pp. 1, 3, 5-7, with HB 286, as introduced, § 1, pp. 2-3, 5.

27. Compare HB 286 (SCS), §§ 1-3, pp. 1, 3, 5-7, with HB 286, as introduced, § 1, pp. 2-3, 5.

28. State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, May 13, 2021.

29. Georgia Senate Voting Record, HB 286, #270 (Mar. 25, 2021).

30. State of Georgia Final Composite Status Sheet, HB 286, May 13, 2021.

signed the bill into law as Act 263 on May 5, 2021.³¹ The Act's effective date is July 1, 2021.³²

The Act

The Act amends the following portions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated: Chapter 8 of Title 36, relating to county police; Chapter 60 of Title 36, relating to general provisions applicable to municipal corporations; and Chapter 1 of Title 45, relating to general provisions for public officers and employees.³³ The Act's overall purpose is to restrict the ability of county, municipal, or consolidated governing authorities from reducing funding for county or municipal police departments and to require state and certain local governments to provide particular public safety employees with the ability to have legal insurance premiums deducted from the employee's payroll.³⁴

Section 1

Section 1 of the Act amends Chapter 8 of Title 36, which relates to county police by adding Code section 36-8-8.³⁵ Paragraph (a)(1) states that a county governing authority that has elected to establish a county police force cannot decrease the annual budget of said police force by more than 5% of the previous year's fiscal appropriation.³⁶ Paragraph (a) does not apply, if "during the previous fiscal year[,] the county made a one-time capital public safety facility, equipment, or software purchase or incurred a one-time legal obligation that increased" the police force's budget by more than 4% of the annual budget appropriation for the police force in the immediately preceding fiscal year and current fiscal year.³⁷ Further, paragraph (b)(1) makes clear

31. *Id.*

32. *Id.*

33. 2021 Ga. Laws 263, §§ 1-3, at 621-24.

34. *Id.*

35. 2021 Ga. Laws 263, § 1, at 621 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 36-8-8 (Supp. 2021)).

36. O.C.G.A. § 36-8-8(a)(1) (Supp. 2021).

37. *Id.* § 36-8-8(a)(2)(B).

that said annual budget cannot decrease by more than 5% during a rolling five-year period.³⁸

Paragraph (b)(2) provides that paragraph (b) does not apply if the actual or anticipated revenues of the county decrease by more than 5%.³⁹ In that case, the governing authority would “decrease the budgetary appropriation for such police force,” but the police force budget should not be decreased by more than the overall percentage decrease of the county’s actual or anticipated revenue.⁴⁰

Paragraph (c) of Section 1 lays out three exceptions where paragraphs (a) and (b) do not apply.⁴¹ The first exception applies where the county ensures that either the sheriff or another local government provide an “equal or greater” level of law enforcement.⁴² The second exception applies where a court orders the county to provide a public service at a level the county was not providing prior to the court order, which requires a county-wide budgetary restructuring.⁴³ Lastly, the third exception provides that if a governing authority proposes to adopt a police department budget exceeding the limits dictated in paragraphs (a) and (b), the government must adopt the budget rate at an advertised public meeting.⁴⁴ To adopt the budget rate advertised, the governing authority must: (1) place an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation and on the governing authority’s website, which describes the proposed budget decrease and (2) conduct a public hearing a week before the adoption of the budget resolution where any person wishing to be heard on the budget may speak.⁴⁵

Finally, paragraph (d) of Section 1 specifies that this Code section applies only to county police forces employing more than twenty-five full-time or part-time certified law enforcement officers.⁴⁶

38. *Id.* § 36-8-8(b)(1).

39. *Id.* § 36-8-8(b)(2).

40. *Id.*

41. *Id.* § 36-8-8(c)(1)-(3).

42. O.C.G.A. § 36-8-8(c)(1) (Supp. 2021).

43. *Id.* § 36-8-8(c)(2).

44. *Id.* § 36-8-8(c)(3).

45. *Id.*

46. *Id.* § 36-8-8(d).

Section 2

Section 2 of the Act amends Chapter 60 of Title 36, which relates to general provisions applicable to municipal corporations, by adding Code section 36-60-28.⁴⁷ Paragraphs (a)-(c) and (e) of Section 2 of HB 286 are identical to paragraphs (a)-(c) and (d) of Section 1, except that they apply to municipalities instead of counties.⁴⁸ Additionally, Section 2 of the Act has one additional paragraph, paragraph (d), than Section 1.⁴⁹

Paragraph (d) makes clear that this Code section applies to any consolidated government that operates a police force and for the purposes of this Code section, those police forces will be considered municipal police forces.⁵⁰

Section 3

Section 3 of the Act amends Chapter 1 of Title 45, which relates to general provisions for public officers and employees by adding Code section 45-1-8.⁵¹ Paragraph (a) defines “correctional officer,” “emergency health worker,” “ERISA,” “firefighter,” “highway emergency response operator,” “jail officer,” “juvenile correctional officer,” “probation officer,” and “public safety employee.”⁵² Paragraph (b) states that all state and county or municipal governing authorities that provide electronic payroll deposits shall also provide payroll deductions to any full-time or part-time public safety employees who request a deduction for the purpose of purchasing insurance that provides the employee with legal representation during all civil, administrative, or criminal actions caused due to their actions or responsibilities as a public safety employee.⁵³ These deductions can

47. 2021 Ga. Laws 263, § 2, at 622 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 36-60-28 (Supp. 2021)).

48. *Compare* O.C.G.A. § 36-60-28(a)-(c), (e) (Supp. 2021) (applying to municipalities), with § 36-8-8(a)-(c), (d) (applying to counties).

49. *Compare* 2021 Ga. Laws 263, § 1, at 621-22 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 36-8-8 (Supp. 2021)) (up to paragraph (d)), with 2021 Ga. Laws 263, § 2, at 622-23 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 36-60-28 (Supp. 2021)) (adding paragraph (e)).

50. § 36-60-28(d).

51. 2021 Ga. Laws 263, § 3, at 623-24 (codified at O.C.G.A. § 45-1-8 (Supp. 2021)).

52. O.C.G.A. § 45-1-8(a)(1)-(9) (Supp. 2021).

53. *Id.* § 45-1-8(b).

only be made to pay for the premiums on ERISA-compliant insurance plans and dues or fees to any membership organization that provides ERISA-compliant products as a benefit of membership.⁵⁴

Analysis

Home Rule

The largest question HB 286 faced in the House and Senate was whether the bill violated the Georgia Constitution's provisions on its "home rule" for counties and municipalities.⁵⁵ Georgia's home rule provides:

The governing authority of each county shall have legislative power to adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which is not inconsistent with this Constitution or any local law applicable thereto.⁵⁶

Further, the Constitution expounds, "The General Assembly shall not pass any local law to repeal, modify, or supersede any action taken by a county governing authority under this section except as authorized under subparagraph (c) hereof."⁵⁷ With these two sentences, the Georgia Constitution lays out a strong home rule where counties and municipalities can adopt laws and self-regulate their own affairs.⁵⁸ The Constitution, however, goes on to state: "The power granted to counties in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall not be construed to extend to . . . any other matters which the General Assembly by

54. *Id.*

55. Video Recording of House Proceedings at 2 hr., 19 min., 41 sec. (Feb. 24, 2021) [hereinafter House Proceedings Video] (remarks by Rep. James Beverly (D-143rd)), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wtw2oRIwuoQ>; Video Recording of Senate Proceedings at 2 hr., 51 min., 29 sec. (Mar. 25, 2021) [hereinafter Senate Proceedings Video] (remarks by Sen. Emanuel Jones (D-10th)), <https://livestream.com/accounts/26021522/events/7940809/videos/219222718>.

56. GA. CONST. art. IX, § 2, para. 1(a).

57. *Id.* art. IX, § 2, para. 1(b).

58. *Id.* art. IX, § 2, para. 1(a)-(b).

general law has preempted or may hereafter preempt.”⁵⁹ The Georgia Constitution defines a general law as a law with a “uniform operation throughout this state.”⁶⁰ Therefore, Republican lawmakers contend that because HB 286 uniformly applies to all counties and municipalities within the state, it is a general law that preempts local law and does not violate home rule.⁶¹

Representative Renitta Shannon (D-84th) was the first to question Representative Houston Gaines (R-117th), in the Governmental Affairs Committee, as to whether HB 286 could survive Georgia’s home rule outlined in its Constitution.⁶² Representative Shannon used the example of Senate Bill (SB) 509, a bill which abolished the Glynn County Police Department by merging its assets into the local sheriff’s department.⁶³ Representative Shannon stated that although SB 509 passed both chambers and was signed by the governor, a court found it to be unconstitutional on the grounds of violating home rule.⁶⁴ Unlike SB 509, Representative Gaines explained that HB 286 “is a general bill that applies statewide,” which only applied to one police department.⁶⁵ SB 509 thus violated the home rule provision that the General Assembly cannot pass local laws, but HB 286 would avoid that issue entirely by applying generally.⁶⁶

On the House floor, Representative James Beverly (D-143rd) stated that the Georgia Constitution is very specific in “giv[ing] the local authority the ability to fix salaries [And that] the reality of this bill, right now, is . . . it doesn’t honor the Constitution.”⁶⁷ Representative Gaines pushed back against those who asserted that HB 286 violates home rule by claiming he supports local control and “believe[s] [it] is

59. *Id.* art. IX, § 2, para. 1(c).

60. *Id.* art. III, § 6, para. 4(a).

61. Senate Proceedings Video, *supra* note 55, at 2 hr., 51 min., 31 sec. (remarks by Sen. Randy Robertson (R-29th)).

62. Video Recording of Committee of Governmental Affairs Proceedings at 16 min., 55 sec. (Feb. 17, 2021) [hereinafter Committee Proceedings Video] (remarks by Rep. Renitta Shannon (D-84th)), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIScgEYPOzk&list=PLIgKJe7_xdLV_T8UkoYPYEmdWjOBYZDEq&index=112.

63. *Id.*

64. *Id.*

65. *Id.* at 17 min., 1 sec. (remarks by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th)).

66. *Id.*

67. House Proceedings Video, *supra* note 55, at 2 hr., 19 min., 8 sec. (remarks by Rep. James Beverly (D-143rd)).

something that this General Assembly supports, but when we have local governments that are out of control[,] . . . we have to step in.”⁶⁸

Further, Senator Emanuel Jones (D-10th) asked Senator Randy Robertson (R-29th) if he believed this bill violated home rule.⁶⁹ Senator Robertson answered that HB 286 did not violate home rule because it complies with the Georgia Constitution’s definition of home rule in subparagraph (b) and with the authority of the General Assembly.⁷⁰

Public Safety

Another point of contention in the passage of HB 286 was whether HB 286 adequately safeguarded a baseline level of public safety in Georgia communities.⁷¹ In his opening statements to the Governmental Affairs Committee, Representative Gaines remarked that his hometown of Athens and the City of Atlanta had both seen efforts on the part of local lawmakers to “defund the police,” and he felt these efforts would “make our state less safe.”⁷²

Still, lawmakers pushed back against the idea that HB 286 created “a standard of public safety.”⁷³ Representative Shannon claimed HB 286 did “nothing at all” other than “tell counties how much they have to spend on law enforcement.”⁷⁴ Further, when asked if any statistics showed that diverting funding from police to mental health resources made communities less safe, Representative Gaines could not cite to any specifics.⁷⁵ Instead, Representative Gaines explained that he believed there should be funding for mental health resources, simply “not at the expense of law enforcement.”⁷⁶ Representative Mesha Mainor (D-56th), who spoke “as a victim,” agreed with Representative

68. *Id.* at 2 hr., 27 min., 3 sec. (remarks by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th)).

69. Senate Proceedings Video, *supra* note 55, at 2 hr., 51 min., 29 sec. (remarks by Sen. Emanuel Jones (D-10th)).

70. *Id.* at 2 hr., 51 min., 31 sec. (remarks by Sen. Randy Robertson (R-29th)).

71. Committee Proceedings Video, *supra* note 62, at 13 min., 20 sec. (remarks by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th)); *Id.* at 34 min. (remarks by Rep. Renitta Shannon (D-84th)).

72. *Id.* at 13 min., 20 sec. (remarks by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th)).

73. *Id.* at 34 min. (remarks by Rep. Renitta Shannon (D-84th)).

74. *Id.*

75. *Id.* at 15 min., 5 sec. (remarks by Rep. Houston Gaines (R-117th)).

76. *Id.* at 19 min., 21 sec.

Gaines and explained that, to her, the question was “what is the state going to do about mental health, not what are we going to do about taking funds away from police departments when they already don’t have the funds that they need to come to my house, when I need them to come to my house.”⁷⁷

Yet, a well-funded police force does not necessarily equal less crime.⁷⁸ For instance, in 1997, the United States had 242 police officers for every 100,000 residents.⁷⁹ By 2016, that number dwindled to a mere 217 officers per 100,000 residents.⁸⁰ As the number of police officers declined, so did the violent crime rate.⁸¹ In 1997, the violent crime rate was 611 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants, but in 2016, it was 386.3 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants.⁸² This data shows that more boots on the ground do not necessarily correlate to safer cities. Instead, police staffing consultants emphasize, “It’s not what you have, it’s what you are doing with them.”⁸³

Comparison to Other State Laws in the Eleventh Circuit

Prior to the bill’s passage, Georgia’s local governments independently controlled their police budgets.⁸⁴ After the Act passed, the city governments’ powers to regulate and change police budgets closely resemble restrictions put in place by Florida.⁸⁵

77. Committee Proceedings Video, *supra* note 62, at 31 min., 13 sec. (remarks by Rep. Meshia Mainor (D-56th)).

78. Simone Weichselbaum & Wendi C. Thomas, *More Cops. Is It the Answer to Fighting Crime?*, USA TODAY, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/02/13/marshall-project-more-cops-dont-mean-less-crime-experts-say/2818056002/> [<https://perma.cc/3JRZ-36F9>] (Feb 13, 2019, 9:00 AM).

79. *Id.*

80. *Id.*

81. *Id.*

82. *Id.*

83. *Id.*

84. Maya T. Prabhu, *Critics Question Impact of Law Banning Georgia Cities from Cutting Police Funding*, ATLANTA J.-CONST. (Apr. 12, 2021), <https://www.ajc.com/politics/critics-question-impact-of-law-banning-georgia-cities-from-cutting-police-funding/ZLL3BBCW2VCABF74CDBXRVRIVI/> [<https://perma.cc/4DDE-VAUH>].

85. FLA. STAT. ANN. § 166.241 (West, Westlaw through the 2021 First Regular Session and Special “A” Session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature); O.C.G.A. §§ 36-8-8, -60-28 (Supp. 2021); *see also* Sam Sachs, *Now That[] It’s Signed, What’s in Florida’s Combating Public Disorder Law, HB 1?*, NEWS CHANNEL 8, <https://www.wfla.com/news/florida/now-thats-its-signed-whats-in-floridas-combating-public-disorder-law-hb-1/> [<https://perma.cc/T6F7-UY6P>] (Apr. 20, 2021, 6:32 PM).

Although both Georgia's and Florida's laws were put in place to hinder and restrict the local government's capability to reduce police budgets, the two statutes differ in several ways. HB 286 restricts a local government from cutting police budgets over a period of time, but its exceptions may allow a local government to deviate from the law's restrictions.⁸⁶ Further, Georgia's statute does not allow local governments to cut police budgets if the reduction is larger than a specific percentage, whereas Florida's statute allows for the state's Administration Commission to approve, amend, or modify the local government's budget when either a citizen or an official files a claim in opposition of the budget reduction.⁸⁷ Although the local government can explain why it believes the reduction is necessary, the state has the power to create and change local government budgets when it sees fit.⁸⁸

Georgia legislators pushed for the implementation of the statute due to the increase in local governments that wanted to lower police budgets, whereas Florida's governor admits that the statute's purpose is not only to "combat violence, disorder, looting, and protect law enforcement" but also to show that the state stands with its police officers.⁸⁹ This reasoning provided by Florida's governor may explain why Florida's statute is more encompassing than Georgia's, even though the purposes of both laws are to prevent reductions in police budgets.

Conclusion

Many individuals believe that HB 286 is government overreach on the part of Republican lawmakers, but the legislators in favor of this statute have repeatedly asserted that this bill ensures public safety. Although Florida and Georgia have put bills in place that essentially freeze law enforcement budgets, other major cities have decided to

86. O.C.G.A. § 36-60-28(c).

87. Florida House of Representatives, HB 1, Bill Tracking [hereinafter Florida HB 1, Bill Tracking], <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=70193>; § 166.241 (Westlaw); §§ 36-8-8, -60-28; Travis Gibson, *DeSantis Signs Controversial 'Anti-Riot' Bill into Law*, NEWS4JAX, <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2021/04/19/desantis-signs-controversial-anti-riot-bill-into-law/> [https://perma.cc/ES9J-FQLW] (Apr. 19, 2021, 10:45 PM).

88. Florida HB 1, Bill Tracking, *supra* note 87; § 166.241 (Westlaw).

89. Florida HB 1, Bill Tracking, *supra* note 87; Gibson, *supra* note 87.

2021]

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

213

decrease their police force budgets. With so many sizeable changes occurring in the past year, only time will tell which method will increase public safety.

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