COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2022 Legislative Session

BILL

AN ACT repealing the Prince George’s County Police Department Use of Force statutory provision as part of the new County laws being enacted in accordance with the State of Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021.

* For the purpose of repealing Section 18-156 – Use of Force.

BY repealing:

SUBTITLE 18. POLICE.

Section 18-156

The Prince George's County Code


SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Section 18-156 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby repealed:

SUBTITLE 18. POLICE.

DIVISION 5. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

SUBDIVISION 2. RULES OF CONDUCT FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Sec. 18-156. – Reserved. [Use of Force.

The use of reasonable physical force by sworn police officers is authorized in situations which cannot be otherwise controlled. The use of reasonable physical force is authorized when other
reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or would clearly be ineffective under the particular circumstances. In no circumstance may the use of physical force be more than that which is necessary to achieve a lawful purpose. Officers are permitted to use deadly force only when the officer reasonably believes that the use of deadly force is necessary in the defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in the defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical injury.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on June 30, 2022.

Adopted this _____ day of ___________, 2022.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: ___________________________________________________________________
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

_____________________________________________________________________
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED: ___________________________________________________________________

DATE: ________________ BY: ___________________________________________________________________