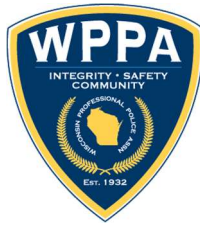


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## Wisconsin's Largest Police Group Calls For Senate Action On Proposed Police Reforms

*WPPA unveils legislative review, highlights successes and critical work to be done*

(MADISON, Wis.) –The Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) released today a legislative review of the laws Wisconsin has enacted since the death of George Floyd and other high-profile law enforcement cases around the country.

“One year ago, almost to the day, we called upon our elected officials to address meaningful police reform,” said WPPA executive director Jim Palmer. “Since then, law enforcement, communities of color, faith-based organizations, and elected officials from both parties have rolled up their sleeves to help implement meaningful police reform in Wisconsin. ”

In September of 2020, the WPPA unveiled “[A Blueprint for Change](#)” featuring a broad array of police reform measures. Several proposals backed by the WPPA were among recommendations issued by the Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities in April. Of those Task Force recommendations, eight of them have already become law, but other bills that have been approved by the state assembly have languished in the senate.

Palmer said the Blueprint for Change was the most-detailed initiative of its kind by any police group in the country and reflects law enforcement’s genuine desire to be a part of the solution to the problems that we as a society collectively face.

Some of the recommendations issued by the Task Force this April have already been enacted into law. Included are measures prohibiting officers from using chokeholds except in life and death situations, ensuring greater access to agencies’ use-of-force policies, instituting the statewide collection of data related to law enforcement’s use of force, and establishing financial support for more community policing efforts.

- More -

## 2-2-2-2 WPPA Blueprint for Change Legislative Update

Most notably, Wisconsin has formally adopted a uniform standard governing law enforcement's use of force, including deadly force. The first of its kind in Wisconsin's history, this new law also requires officers that witness excessive force on the part of another officer to report it and intervene if possible. The law also creates "whistleblower protections" for officers that report excessive force or intervene to stop it by protecting them from any adverse employment action, such as discipline.

Despite these significant advancements, the state assembly has also overwhelmingly approved measures mandating the collection of data on the use of no-knock warrants, uniform standards for the certification and training of school resource officers, psychological exams for individuals applying for law enforcement jobs, additional crisis intervention training, drug tests of officers following critical incidents such as shootings, and financial aid to help communities invest in body worn cameras.

Palmer concludes, "If the senate fails to keep moving forward on police reform, no one should be surprised when the calls for change grow louder and more radical with the next controversial police incident. Such an outcome would represent an enormous missed opportunity to effectively serve the interests of the public and of the dedicated men and women that work to keep our communities safe."

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*With over 10,000 members from almost 300 local association affiliates, the WPPA is Wisconsin's largest law enforcement group.*



# BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2021

		LEGISLATIVE ACTION	WHAT IT DOES
USE OF FORCE			
1. Duty to Report and Intervene	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 75</b></li> </ul>	Requires officers to intervene and report excessive use of force by other officers.
2. Whistleblower Protections	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 75</b></li> </ul>	Protects officers who report excessive use of force.
3. Use of Chokeholds	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 48</b></li> </ul>	Prohibits chokeholds on a statewide basis, except in "life-threatening" situations.
4. Public Access to Use-of-Force Policies	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 49</b></li> </ul>	Requires law enforcement agencies to make its use-of-force policies publicly available on law enforcement agency websites.
5. Statewide Standard for Use of Force	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 75</b></li> </ul>	Officers are authorized to use force that is "objectively reasonable" based on the totality of circumstances – severity of crime, imminent threat, flight risk – and use "deadly force" only as a last resort.

Wisconsin Professional Police Association

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## TRANSPARENCY & OVERSIGHT

<b>6. Independent Use-of-Force Review Advisory Board</b>	<b>NO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No consensus</li> <li>• No Action</li> </ul>	Task Force generally supported creation of a Board, but some members expressed uncertainty about the Board's role in reviewing specific incidents and the extent to which affected communities would be represented.
<b>7. Body Cameras</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	<p>Recommends that all active-duty officers on patrol be equipped with body cameras.</p> <p>Supports creating a funding mechanism (Grants) to assist agencies with associated costs.</p>
<b>8. Statewide Collection of Data on Use of Force</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Legislature</li> <li>• Signed by Governor</li> <li>• <b>Act 50</b></li> </ul>	Requires agencies to report use-of-force incidents, including when an officer draws her firearm.
<b>9. Data Collection of No-Knock Search Warrants</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	<p>Would require that DOJ collect and publish data on the use of no-knock search warrants.</p> <p>No consensus was reached on a recommendation to prohibit no-knock search warrants (without more data).</p>
<b>10. Employment Files of Law Enforcement Officers</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would require agencies to maintain an "employment file" on officers – performance reviews, personnel-related claims, disciplinary actions – and make them available to other interviewing agencies.

## TRAINING & STANDARDS

<b>11. Officer Drug Testing</b>  <b>NOT in Blueprint</b> <b>WPPA SUPPORTS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would require agencies to adopt a written policy regarding drug and alcohol testing following an officer-involved critical incident as soon as practicable after the incident.
<b>12. Officer Psychological Evaluations</b>  <b>NOT in Blueprint</b> <b>WPPA SUPPORTS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would establish, as a condition of initial employment, individuals be required to submit to a psychological exam to determine suitability to perform the duties of an officer.
<b>13. School Resource Officer (SRO) Standards</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passed Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would establish minimum SRO certification training and standards to work in an educational environment and learn de-escalation techniques.

<b>14. Crisis Intervention Training</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Assembly</li> <li><b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would require that officers complete a specified number of hours of crisis management training throughout their careers, counting towards recertification.
<b>15. Decertification of Law Enforcement Officers</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Assembly</li> <li><b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would establish additional grounds on which the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) may decertify an officer for misconduct.
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>			
<b>16. Community Grant Programs</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Legislature</li> <li>Signed by Governor</li> <li><b>Act 51</b></li> </ul>	<p>1. <b>Violence Interruption</b> grants be expanded to include faith-based organizations.</p> <p>2. <b>Community-oriented policing</b> grants be expanded to include communities of 60,000 or more residents.</p>
<b>17. Crisis Response Teams</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Assembly</li> <li><b>Waiting on Senate Action</b></li> </ul>	Would support the expansion of the crisis program grants for collaborative programs between law enforcement agencies and behavioral health programs.
<b>18. Unnecessary Summoning an Officer</b>	<b>NO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Action</li> </ul>	Would create legal consequences to discourage individuals unnecessarily summoning officers based on an individual's intent to cause certain adverse outcomes.
<b>19. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed Legislature</li> <li>Signed by Governor</li> <li><b>Act 29</b></li> </ul>	<p>Officers diagnosed with PTSD no longer need to show that their mental injury is extraordinary when compared to others doing the job in order to qualify for worker's compensation benefits.</p> <p>The WPPA has pursued this legislation for 6 years.</p>

\* As outlined in the [“Report of the Task Force’s Subcommittee on Law enforcement Policies and Standards”](#); submitted on April 21, 2021