**THE JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2020**

**Bill highlights include**

· Grant power to the [Justice Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_Department)'s [Civil Rights Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Division) to issue [subpoenas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subpoena) to police departments as part of "pattern or practice" investigations into whether there has been a "pattern and practice" of bias or misconduct by the department[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-KaneWagner-3)

· Provide grants to [state attorneys general](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_attorneys_general) to "create an independent process to investigate misconduct or excessive use of force" by police forces[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-CaldwellShabad-4)

· Establish a federal registry of police misconduct complaints and disciplinary actions[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-CaldwellShabad-4)

· Enhance accountability for police officers who commit misconduct, including by restricting the application of the [qualified immunity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualified_immunity) doctrine,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-KaneWagner-3) and by changing the federal statute on police violation of constitutional rights to lower the standard of criminal intent from violation conducted "willfully" to a violation "knowingly or with reckless disregard"[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Require federal uniformed police officers to have [body-worn cameras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Body-worn_camera)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-CaldwellShabad-4)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Require marked federal police vehicles to be equipped with [dashboard cameras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dashboard_camera).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-CaldwellShabad-4)

· Require state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding to "ensure" the use of body-worn and dashboard cameras.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Restrict the transfer of military equipment to police[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-CaldwellShabad-4) (see [1033 program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1033_program), [militarization of police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militarization_of_police))

· Require state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding to adopt anti-discrimination policies and training programs, including those targeted at fighting [racial profiling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_profiling)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Prohibit federal police officers from using [chokeholds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chokehold) or other [carotid holds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carotid_hold) (which led to the deaths of George Floyd and [Eric Garner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Eric_Garner)), and require state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding to adopt the same prohibition[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Prohibit the issuance of [no-knock warrants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No-knock_warrant) (warrants that allow police to conduct a raid without knocking or announcing themselves) in federal drug investigations, and provide incentives to the states to enact a similar prohibition.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Change the threshold for the permissible use of force by federal law enforcement officers from "reasonableness" to only when "necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury."[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)

· Mandate that federal officers use [deadly force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deadly_force) only as a last resort and that de-escalation be attempted, and condition federal funding to state and local law enforcement agencies on the adoption of the same policy.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice_in_Policing_Act_of_2020#cite_note-Fandos-2)