

Senate Resolution 182

By: Senators James of the 35th, Rhett of the 33rd, Orrock of the 36th, Lucas of the 26th and Anderson of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging law enforcement agencies to recognize a citizen's bill of rights for police
2 accountability; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, this resolution shall be known as the "Citizen's Bill of Rights for Police
4 Accountability"; and

5 WHEREAS, law enforcement plays a vital role in the health, safety, and prosperity of this
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this state
8 perpetuate inalienable rights belonging to each citizen; and

9 WHEREAS, insuring justice to all, emboldening our collective confidence in law
10 enforcement officers, the perseverance of peace, and the transmitting to posterity the
11 enjoyment of liberty requires accountability in policing.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
13 join together to encourage all law enforcement agencies of this state to ensure the following
14 measures to the citizens of this state:

15 (1) To the extent allowable by the protection of open cases and pending investigations,
16 transparency in law enforcement, including, but not limited to, compliance with Open
17 Records laws and public access to public records that concern law enforcement conduct.

18 (2) Openness through the provision of public announcements about deaths of individuals
19 while in police custody and uses of force against individuals by police resulting in death
20 and decisions to criminally or administratively charge or exonerate officers involved in
21 such deaths or uses of force.

22 (3) Upon the occurrence of a death while in police custody or a death resulting from
23 police use of force, initiate a criminal investigation, an administrative investigation, or
24 both, as circumstances dictate.

25 (4) Establish and maintain fair, impartial, and objective internal or external systems, or
26 both, for receiving and investigating citizen complaints of police misconduct, including
27 but not limited to:

28 (A) Ensuring that every investigation is thorough and that all findings are well
29 documented;

30 (B) Ensuring that a final disposition of investigation is made within a reasonable period
31 of time where such final disposition is based on a preponderance of evidence standard
32 and indicate whether the allegation has been sustained, not sustained, unfounded, or
33 exonerated; and

34 (C) Making a public disclosure of final dispositions where the public is entitled to
35 obtain copies or to otherwise review the results.

36 (5) Require at least an associate's degree in criminal justice or a related field for
37 appointment or certification as a law enforcement officer.

38 (6) Increase law enforcement training in de-escalation, responding to the mentally ill,
39 and restraint of implicit biases.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Department of
42 Public Safety and the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.