

- SUBJECT:** Limiting peace officers from using choke holds during search or arrest
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — White, Bowers, Goodwin, Hefner, E. Morales, Schaefer, Tinderholt
2 nays — Harless, Patterson
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 28 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** For — Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Rebecca Bernhardt, Innocence Project of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Juan Salinas, AT&T; Chas Moore, Austin Justice Coalition; Collin Craig, Houston Police Department; Joyce Brown, Karen Collins, and Georgia Keysor, Indivisible Rosedale Huddle; Maggie Luna, Statewide Leadership Council; Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; John Chancellor, Texas Police Chiefs Association; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; and 10 individuals)
Against — None
On — Koretta Brown, Alliance For A New Justice System; Kathy Mitchell, Just Liberty; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Warren Burkley, Austin Justice Coalition; Brian Baxter, Texas DPS)
- BACKGROUND:** Choke holds and other methods to restrict airflow employed by peace officers involve the compression of a person's neck, which, when misapplied, can lead to serious injury or death. Some have called for banning the use of these potentially lethal methods of restraint by law enforcement.
- DIGEST:** SB 69 would prohibit a peace officer from intentionally using a choke hold, carotid artery hold, or similar neck restraint in searching or arresting a person unless the restraint was necessary to prevent serious bodily injury to or the death of the officer or another person.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.