

HB 3355 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/15, 3/17, 3/30, 4/1, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies what identification must be on a law enforcement officer's uniform and gear during a crowd management situation. Directs law enforcement agency to adopt policy prohibiting the intentional obscuring of the required identification. Requires a law enforcement officer to provide their name and identifying number, or a business card, to a member of the public upon request if practical, safe, and tactically feasible. Provides process by which a member of the public can request and obtain the name and state assigned identifying number of an officer from a law enforcement agency. Allows exception if officer is participating in an undercover operation. Defines "law enforcement agency" and "law enforcement officer." Declares emergency, takes effect 90 days after passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experiences with police during recent protests
- Definition of "crowd management"
- Overview of workgroup process
- Potential amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes "assigned to work" with "engaged in" on page 1, line 11 of measure.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2020 interim, the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform was formed in response to the death of George Floyd in Minnesota and the protests that followed. During its hearings, the Committee heard concerns about the inability of the public to identify law enforcement officers responding to the protests. Subsequently a workgroup was formed to address these concerns and propose solutions.

House Bill 3355 specifics what identification must be on an officer engaged in crowd management, requires officers to identify themselves to members of the public in most circumstances, and creates a process by which a member of the public can request the name and identification number of an officer from a law enforcement agency.