

Reducing Deadly Police Shootings in California

SB 230 *does not* meaningfully address California’s epidemic of police shootings. It just pretends to.

Allows more unnecessary killings

- Allows officers to kill people even when there are alternatives.
- Allows officers to kill people just to accomplish an arrest, regardless of whether use of force was needed to defend against a threat.
- Allows officers to kill people even when it is unnecessary and when there is no threat – whether immediate or not.
- Allows officers to kill people who are running away, regardless of whether they pose a threat to another person.

Maintains status quo on deadly use of force policies

- Sets no requirements on use of force policies, other than requiring that departments have a use of force policy, which every agency already has, and that the policy contain “guidelines” on use of force and a list of topics.
- Includes popular buzzwords like “de-escalation” and being “fair and unbiased” – but does not actually require or even recommend law enforcement de-escalate, engage in fair and unbiased policing, or carry out any best practices.

Toothless training guidelines

- Provides vague guidance on training with no minimum standards.
- Provides a list of topics for training but does nothing to set requirements for the content of the training or any clear standards.
- For example: It asks for “guidelines” on de-escalation, without saying when officers should use de-escalation or whether they are ever required to do so.

	AB 392: California Act to Save Lives (Weber)	California Department of Justice Recommendations ¹	Obama Department of Justice Recommendations ²	SB 230 (Caballero)
Calls for clear use of force guidelines to let police officers know when they can and cannot use deadly force.	👍	👍	👍	👎
Requires that officers exhaust all reasonably available alternatives before using deadly force.	👍	👍	👍	👎
Requires de-escalation whenever possible.	👍	👍	👍	👎
Requires that officers use deadly force only when necessary to address an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury	👍	👍	👍	👎
Allows officers to continue to use deadly force when it is not necessary to keep officers or others safe	👎	👎	👎	👍

¹<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/spd-report.pdf>

²<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/federal-monitor-finds-seattle-police-department-initial-compliance-use-force>