
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney

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2021 Wisconsin Act 48
[2021 Senate Bill 121]

**Use of Choke Holds by Law
Enforcement Officers**

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin law requires that each state or local law enforcement agency prepare, and make publicly available, a written policy or standard regulating the use of force by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 48

2021 Wisconsin Act 48 maintains the requirement that each law enforcement agency have a use-of-force policy and further provides that an agency's policy or standard may not authorize the use of choke holds by law enforcement officers, except in life threatening situations or in self-defense. The act defines "choke hold" as the intentional and prolonged application of force to the throat, windpipe, or carotid arteries that prevents or hinders breathing or blood flow, reduces the intake of air, or reduces blood flow to the head.

Effective date: The act's provisions take effect on July 23, 2021.

AO:jal