

---

# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

---



**Memo published:** May 10, 2021

**Contact:** Amber Otis, Staff Attorney

**2021 Senate Bill 121**

**Senate Substitute  
Amendment 1**

### **2021 SENATE BILL 121**

Current law requires that each law enforcement agency have a written policy or standard regulating the use of force by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.

Under Senate Bill 121, a law enforcement 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 bill defines "choke hold" as the intentional and prolonged application of force to the throat or windpipe that prevents or hinders breathing or reduces the intake of air.

### **SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1**

The substitute amendment generally maintains the bill's provisions, but expands the definition of "choke hold" to include certain types of force affecting blood flow.

Specifically, under the amendment, "choke hold" means 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.

### **BILL HISTORY**

Senator Wanggaard offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on May 4, 2021. On May 6, 2021, the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety recommended adoption of the substitute amendment on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 0; and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 1.

AO:jal