

- 1 SB129
- 2 PVS2GER-1
- 3 By Senators Bell, Gudger, Chambliss, Livingston, Waggoner,
- 4 Price, Roberts, Shelnutt, Hovey, Elliott, Weaver, Sessions,
- 5 Williams, Allen, Butler, Orr, Jones, Kitchens, Kelley, Melson,
- 6 Barfoot
- 7 RFD: Judiciary
- 8 First Read: 06-Feb-25

#### SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a peace officer is protected from tort liability arising out of his or her conduct in performance of any discretionary function within the line and scope of his or her law enforcement duties.

Under court precedents interpreting existing law, a peace officer is not entitled to this protection when he or she acts willfully, maliciously, fraudulently, in bad faith, beyond his or her authority, or under a mistaken interpretation of the law.

This bill would repeal existing law concerning peace officer immunity and establish a new form of legal protection for law enforcement officers. This new protection would foreclose any claim that seeks to impose civil liability against a law enforcement officer premised on conduct performed within his or her discretionary authority unless: (1) the law enforcement officer acted recklessly without law enforcement justification or (2) the conduct violated a clearly established state or federal statutory or constitutional right of the plaintiff. This bill would also establish a heightened pleading standard and an

| automatic stay of proceedings to remain in effect while |
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| the law enforcement officer seeks to establish that the |
| protection applies.                                     |

enforcement officer is justified in, and immune from criminal prosecution for, the use of physical force against a person in the performance of conduct within his or her discretionary authority unless the use of force violates the person's constitutional rights to be free from excessive force. The bill would entitle a law enforcement officer to a pretrial hearing to establish the applicability of this protection. The bill would also provide for an automatic stay of any criminal prosecution while the law enforcement officer seeks to establish that the protection applies.

43 A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

45 AN ACT

Relating to law enforcement officers; to establish immunity for law enforcement officers from civil liability; to establish immunity for law enforcement officers from criminal prosecution; to provide exceptions to such immunities; to provide procedures for asserting such immunities; to amend Sections 13A-3-20, 13A-3-27, and 13A-3-28, Code of Alabama

- 53 1975; to repeal Section 6-5-338, relating to peace officer
- 54 immunity.
- 55 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- Section 1. For purposes of this act, the following terms
- 57 have the following meanings unless the context dictates
- 58 otherwise:
- (1) CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. A state or federal statutory
- or constitutional right is clearly established, and a
- for reasonable law enforcement officer would have known of it, in
- any of the following circumstances:
- a. The right is clear from a materially similar case
- decided before the occurrence of the relevant conduct by the
- 65 United States Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of
- 66 Appeals, or the Alabama Supreme Court.
- b. The right is clear from a broad statement of
- 68 principle that is established with so obvious clarity by one
- of the courts identified in the preceding paragraph that,
- 70 before the occurrence of the relevant conduct, every
- 71 objectively reasonable law enforcement officer facing the
- 72 circumstances would have known that the relevant conduct
- 73 violated the right.
- 74 c. The right is so obvious from the text of a federal
- 75 or state constitutional provision or statute that, before the
- occurrence of the relevant conduct, no objectively reasonable

- law enforcement officer would have required case law to be put on notice that the relevant conduct violated the right.
- 79 (2) CONDUCT PERFORMED WITHIN A LAW ENFORCEMENT 80 OFFICER'S DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. Governmental conduct by a 81 law enforcement officer performing a legitimate job-related 82 function or performing a legitimate job-related goal through means that were within the law enforcement officer's plausible 83 power to utilize. In determining whether governmental conduct 84 was performed within a law enforcement officer's discretionary 85 authority, a court must temporarily put aside that the conduct 86 87 may have been committed for an improper or unconstitutional purpose, in an improper or unconstitutional manner, to an 88 improper or unconstitutional extent, or under improper or 89 90 constitutionally inappropriate circumstances. The court must 91 determine whether, if done for a proper purpose, the conduct was within, or reasonably related to, the outer perimeter of a 92 law enforcement officer's governmental discretion in 93 performing his or her official duties. 94
- 95 (3) DETENTION FACILITY OFFICER. Any peace officer, 96 guard, or detention or jail officer employed in a facility 97 used for the confinement, pursuant to law, of any of the 98 following persons:
- a. Someone charged with or convicted of an offense.

- b. Someone charged with being or adjudicated a youthfuloffender, a neglected minor, or juvenile delinquent.
- 102 c. Someone held for extradition.
- 103 d. Someone otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court.
- (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Any peace officer or 105 tactical medic, except a constable, who is employed or 106 107 appointed pursuant to the Constitution or statutes of this 108 state, whether appointed or employed as a peace officer or tactical medic by the state or a county or municipality 109 thereof, or by an agency or institution, corporate or 110 otherwise, created pursuant to the Constitution or laws of 111 this state and authorized by the Constitution or laws to 112 113 appoint or employ police officers or other peace officers or 114 tactical medics, and whose duties prescribed by law, or by the lawful terms of their employment or appointment, include the 115 enforcement of, or the investigation and reporting of 116 violations of, the criminal laws of this state, and who is 117 empowered by the laws of this state to execute warrants, to 118 arrest and to take into custody persons who violate, or who 119 120 are lawfully charged by warrant, indictment, or other lawful process, with violations of, the criminal laws of this state. 121 The term includes a detention facility officer. 122

| 123 | (5) RECKLESSLY WITHOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT JUSTIFICATION. A        |
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| 124 | law enforcement officer acts recklessly without law            |
| 125 | enforcement justification if he or she is aware of, and        |
| 126 | consciously disregards, a risk of death or substantial bodily  |
| 127 | injury without reasonable law enforcement justification. A law |
| 128 | enforcement officer who creates a risk of death or substantial |
| 129 | bodily injury in the absence of reasonable law enforcement     |
| 130 | justification but is unaware of that risk by reason of         |
| 131 | voluntary intoxication, as defined in subdivision (e)(2) of    |
| 132 | Section 13A-3-2, acts recklessly with respect thereto. Whether |
| 133 | a law enforcement officer acts without law enforcement         |
| 134 | justification is a question of law to be decided by the court. |
| 135 | A law enforcement officer acts without law enforcement         |
| 136 | justification when the law enforcement officer fails, in an    |
| 137 | objectively unreasonable manner, to comply with written        |
| 138 | policies of the law enforcement officer's employer or          |
| 139 | appointing authority or when the law enforcement officer's     |
| 140 | conduct is premised on the law enforcement officer's           |
| 141 | objectively unreasonable interpretation of such a policy.      |
| 142 | (6) TACTICAL MEDIC. A firefighter paramedic or                 |
| 143 | firefighter emergency medical technician licensed by the State |
| 144 | of Alabama and employed by the state or a county or            |
| 145 | municipality within the state, operating on-duty in direct     |
| 146 | support of a tactical law enforcement unit to provide medical  |

services at high risk incidences including hostage incidents, narcotic raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents, armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspect, felony warrant

service, and fugitives refusing to surrender.

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- 151 (7) WRITTEN POLICY. A written rule, regulation, 152 instruction, or directive issued by a law enforcement officer's employer or appointing authority, and applicable to 153 conduct within a law enforcement officer's discretionary 154 155 authority, specifying the particular manner in which a law enforcement officer should exercise discretion in specific 156 157 situations or scenarios. The written rule, regulation, instruction, or directive must have been issued before the 158 occurrence of the relevant conduct, and must have been made 159 available to the extent that every reasonable law enforcement 160 161 officer would have known of it.
- Section 2. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a

  law enforcement officer shall be immune from any claim that

  seeks to impose civil liability on the law enforcement officer

  for conduct performed within a law enforcement officer's

  discretionary authority.
- 167 (b) A law enforcement officer shall not be immune in 168 either of the following circumstances:
- 169 (1) The law enforcement officer acted recklessly
  170 without law enforcement justification.

| 171 | (2) The conduct violated a clearly established state or       |
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| 172 | federal statutory or constitutional right of the plaintiff of |
| 173 | which every reasonable law enforcement officer would have     |
| 174 | known at the time of the law enforcement officer's conduct.   |

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- (c) In any civil action against a law enforcement officer in his or her personal or individual capacity premised on conduct performed within the law enforcement officer's discretionary authority, the complaint must identify with particularity, for each defendant and for each claim, each of the following:
- 181 (1) The legal authority that assertedly creates the 182 claim against the law enforcement officer.
- 183 (2) Specific factual allegations to satisfy each
  184 element of each asserted claim.
- 185 (3) Specific factual allegations demonstrating that the law enforcement officer lacks immunity pursuant to subsection 187 (a).
- 188 (d) In any civil action against a law enforcement

  189 officer in his or her personal or individual capacity premised

  190 on conduct performed within the law enforcement officer's

  191 discretionary authority, the court shall promptly dismiss any

  192 claim for which either of the following is true:
- 193 (1) The complaint lacks the legal and factual
  194 particularity required under subsection (c), as long as the

- law enforcement officer, or his or her employer or appointing
  authority, has complied with any valid discovery request made
  pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) and the Alabama Rules of Civil
  Procedure and validly served no later than fourteen days after
  the law enforcement officer first appears or otherwise defends
  against the lawsuit.
- 201 (2) The complaint's factual allegations, taken as true, 202 fail to overcome the immunity established by subsection (a).
- 203 (e)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), the
  204 pendency of a motion to dismiss pursuant to subsection (d)
  205 shall automatically stay the obligation of any party or
  206 non-party to make disclosures or respond to discovery requests
  207 of any kind unless a party establishes any of the following:
- 208 a. The motion to dismiss is frivolous.
- 209 b. A response to a particularized discovery request is 210 necessary to preserve evidence.
- 211 c. An exception to the stay is necessary to prevent
  212 undue prejudice to prevent a failure or delay of justice
  213 within the meaning of Alabama Rule of Civil Procedure
  214 27(a)(3).
- 215 (2) The automatic stay of discovery provided by
  216 subdivision (1) does not prohibit the plaintiff from seeking
  217 production of any written policies governing the law
  218 enforcement officer's conduct at the time of the specific

- 219 events identified in the complaint. Nothing in this act shall be construed as addressing whether a written policy is a 220 221 public record for purposes of Section 36-12-40 et seq., and 222 nothing in this act shall preclude the entry of a protective 223 order prohibiting public disclosure of such a written policy.
- (3) Unless otherwise ordered by the court, during the 224 pendency of the stay established by this section, the legal 225 226 responsibilities of the parties concerning the preservation of evidence shall continue. 227
- (f) A law enforcement officer may seek entry of 228 229 dismissal or judgment as a matter of law, including summary 230 judgment, on grounds that he or she is immune pursuant to subsection (a) as allowed under the Alabama Rules of Civil 231 232 Procedure.

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- (g)(1) A law enforcement officer asserting immunity under subsection (a) bears the burden of establishing that the claim is premised on conduct performed within the law enforcement officer's discretionary authority as that term is defined in section 1(2). 237
- (2) Once the law enforcement officer satisfies his or 238 239 her burden under subdivision (1), the burden shifts to the 240 plaintiff to establish that the law enforcement officer is not 241 immune pursuant to subsection (b).
- 242 Section 3. (a) The improper denial of a motion to 243 dismiss or motion for judgment as a matter of law, including a

- motion for summary judgment, based on the immunity provided
  under Section 2(a), or any action improperly allowing
  discovery in violation of Section 2(e), shall entitle a law
  enforcement officer to mandamus relief from the Alabama
  Supreme Court. Any petition for a writ of mandamus pursuant to
  this subsection shall be filed pursuant to the Alabama Rules
  of Appellate Procedure.
- 251 (b) The filing of a petition for a writ of mandamus
  252 shall automatically stay further proceedings in the trial
  253 court unless, and to the extent that, the court validly finds
  254 upon motion of any party that further proceedings are
  255 necessary to prevent irreparable harm.
- 256 Section 4. (a) The protections afforded a law
  257 enforcement officer under this act apply to any cause of
  258 action that accrued on or after the effective date of this
  259 act.
- 260 (b) The protections available to law enforcement

  261 officers under this act are in addition to, and supplemental

  262 of, any protections available to a law enforcement officer

  263 pursuant to Section 36-1-12, Section 36-22-3, Section 14-16-1,

  264 or Article I, Section 14 of the Alabama Constitution of 2022.
- 265 (c) This act is intended to extend immunity only to a
  266 law enforcement officer for conduct performed within a law
  267 enforcement officer's discretionary authority. No immunity is
  268 extended to any private non-governmental person or entity,

- including any private employer of a law enforcement officer during that officer's off-duty hours.
- 271 (d) Every private, non-governmental person or entity
- 272 who hires a law enforcement officer during that officer's
- 273 off-duty hours to perform any type of security work or to work
- 274 while in the uniform of a law enforcement officer shall have
- in force at least \$500,000 of liability insurance, which
- insurance must indemnify for acts the off-duty law enforcement
- 277 officer takes within the line and scope of the private
- 278 employment or contract. The failure to have in force the
- insurance required by this subsection shall make every
- 280 individual employer, every general partner of a partnership
- 281 employer, every member of an unincorporated association
- 282 employer, and every officer of a corporate employer
- 283 individually liable for all acts taken by the off-duty law
- 284 enforcement officer within the line and scope of the private
- 285 employment or contract.
- 286 Section 5. Sections 13A-3-20, 13A-3-27, and 13A-3-28
- 287 Code of Alabama 1975, are amended as follows:
- 288 "\$13A-3-20
- The following definitions are applicable to this
- 290 article:
- 291 (1) BUILDING. Any structure which may be entered and
- 292 utilized by persons for business, public use, lodging, or the
- 293 storage of goods, and includes any vehicle, aircraft, or
- 294 watercraft used for the lodging of persons or carrying on

business therein. Each unit of a building consisting of two or more units separately occupied or secured is a separate building.

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- (2) CONDUCT PERFORMED WITHIN A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. Governmental conduct by a law enforcement officer performing a legitimate job-related function or performing a job-related goal through means that were within the law enforcement officer's plausible power to utilize. In determining whether governmental conduct was performed within a law enforcement officer's discretionary authority, a court must temporarily put aside that the conduct may have been committed for an improper or unconstitutional purpose, in an improper or unconstitutional manner, to an improper unconstitutional extent, or under improper or constitutionally inappropriate circumstances. The court must determine whether, if done for a proper purpose, the conduct was within, or reasonably related to, the outer perimeter of a law enforcement officer's governmental discretion in performing his or her official duties.
  - (23) DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE. Force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury.
- 317 (4) DETENTION FACILITY OFFICER. Any peace officer,
  318 guard, or detention or jail officer who, in the exercise of
  319 his or her discretionary authority, is authorized to use
  320 physical force against persons and who is employed in a

| 321 | facility used for the confinement, pursuant to law, of any of     |
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| 322 | the following persons:  |
| 323 | a. Someone charged with or convicted of an offense.               |
| 324 | b. Someone charged with being or adjudicated a youthful           |
| 325 | offender, a neglected minor, or juvenile delinquent.              |
| 326 | c. Someone held for extradition.                                  |
| 327 | d. Someone otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a           |
| 328 | court.  |
| 329 | $(\frac{3}{5})$ DWELLING. A building which is usually occupied by |
| 330 | a person lodging therein at night, or a building of any kind,     |
| 331 | including any attached balcony, whether the building is           |
| 332 | temporary or permanent, mobile or immobile, which has a roof      |
| 333 | over it, and is designed to be occupied by people lodging         |
| 334 | therein at night.   |
| 335 | (46) FORCE. Physical action or threat against another,            |
| 336 | including confinement.  |
| 337 | (7) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Any peace officer or                 |
| 338 | tactical medic, except a constable, who is employed or            |
| 339 | appointed pursuant to the Constitution or statutes of this        |
| 340 | state, whether appointed or employed as a peace officer or        |
| 341 | tactical medic by the state or a county or municipality           |
| 342 | thereof, or by an agency or institution, corporate or             |
| 343 | otherwise, created pursuant to the Constitution or laws of        |
| 344 | this state and authorized by the Constitution or laws to          |
| 345 | appoint or employ police officers or other peace officers or      |
| 346 | tactical medics, and whose duties prescribed by law, or by the    |
| 347 | lawful terms of their employment or appointment, include the      |

|   | enforcement of, or the investigation and reporting of              |
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| ) | violations of, the criminal laws of this state, and who is         |
|   | empowered by the laws of this state to execute warrants, to        |
|   | arrest and to take into custody persons who violate, or who        |
|   | are lawfully charged by warrant, indictment, or other lawful       |
|   | process, with violations of, the criminal laws of this state.      |
|   | The term includes any detention facility officer.                  |
|   | $(\frac{58}{8})$ PREMISES. The term includes any building, as      |
|   | defined in this section, and any real property.                    |
|   | $(\frac{69}{9})$ RESIDENCE. A dwelling in which a person resides   |
|   | either temporarily or permanently or is visiting as an invited     |
|   | guest.   |
|   | (10) TACTICAL MEDIC. A firefighter paramedic or                    |
|   | firefighter emergency medical technician licensed by the State     |
|   | of Alabama and employed by the state or a county or                |
|   | municipality within the state, operating on-duty in direct         |
|   | support of a tactical law enforcement unit to provide medical      |
|   | services at high risk incidences including hostage incidents,      |
|   | narcotic raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents,          |
|   | armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspect, felony warrant         |
|   | service, and fugitives refusing to surrender.                      |
|   | $(\frac{7}{11})$ VEHICLE. A motorized conveyance which is designed |
|   | to transport people or property."                                  |
|   | "\$13A-3-27  |
|   | (a) A peace officer is justified in using that degree              |
|   | of physical force which he reasonably believes to be               |
|   | nocossary unon a norson in ordor:                                  |

| 375 | (1) To make an arrest for a misdemeanor, violation or          |
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| 376 | violation of a criminal ordinance, or to prevent the escape    |
| 377 | from custody of a person arrested for a misdemeanor, violation |
| 378 | or violation of a criminal ordinance, unless the peace officer |
| 379 | knows that the arrest is unauthorized; or                      |
| 380 | (2) To defend himself or a third person from what he           |
| 381 | reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of physical  |
| 382 | force while making or attempting to make an arrest for a       |
| 383 | misdemeanor, violation or violation of a criminal ordinance,   |
| 384 | or while preventing or attempting to prevent an escape from    |
| 385 | custody of a person who has been legally arrested for a        |
| 386 | misdemeanor, violation or violation of a criminal ordinance.   |
| 387 | (b) A peace officer is justified in using deadly               |
| 388 | physical force upon another person when and to the extent that |
| 389 | he reasonably believes it necessary in order:                  |
| 390 | (1) To make an arrest for a felony or to prevent the           |
| 391 | escape from custody of a person arrested for a felony, unless  |
| 392 | the officer knows that the arrest is unauthorized; or          |
| 393 | (2) To defend himself or a third person from what he           |
| 394 | reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly    |
| 395 | physical force.  |
| 396 | (c) Nothing in subdivision (a)(1), or (b)(1), or (f)(2)        |
| 397 | constitutes justification for reckless or criminally negligent |
| 398 | conduct by a peace officer amounting to an offense against or  |
| 399 | with respect to persons being arrested or to innocent persons  |
| 400 | whom he is not seeking to arrest or retain in custody.         |
| 401 | (d) A peace officer who is effecting an arrest pursuant        |
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| prescribed in subsections (a) and (b) unless the warrant is   |
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| invalid and is known by the officer to be invalid.  |
| (a) A law enforcement officer shall be justified in   |
| making any use of physical force against a person if the use  |
| of force is conduct performed within the law enforcement  |
| officer's discretionary authority and does not constitute   |
| excessive force as provided in subsection (b).  |
| (b) No law enforcement officer shall be justified, as   |
| provided in this section, for any use of physical force   |
| against a person if the use of force violates that person's   |
| rights, under the Constitution of Alabama or the Constitution   |
| of the United States, to be free from excessive force.  |
| $(\underline{e}\underline{c})$ Except as provided in subsection $(\underline{f}\underline{d})$ , a person                         |
| who has been directed by a peace officer law enforcement  |
| officer to assist him to effect an arrest or to prevent an  |
| escape from custody is justified in using physical force when   |
| and to the extent that he reasonably believes that force to be  |
| necessary to carry out the <pre>peace officer's</pre> law enforcement   |
| officer's direction.  |
| $(\underline{\underline{f}}\underline{\underline{d}})$ A person who has been directed to assist a $\underline{\underline{peace}}$ |
| officer law enforcement officer under circumstances specified   |
| in subsection ( $\frac{e_{\underline{c}}}{}$ ) may use deadly physical force to effect an   |
| arrest or to prevent an escape only when:   |
| (1) He reasonably believes that force to be necessary   |
| to defend himself or a third person from what he reasonably   |
| believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical   |
| force; or   |

| 430 | (2) He is authorized by the peace officer law                                |
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| 431 | enforcement officer to use deadly physical force and does not                |
| 432 | know that the <pre>peace officer law enforcement officer</pre> himself is    |
| 433 | not authorized to use deadly physical force under the                        |
| 434 | circumstances.   |
| 435 | $(\frac{g_{\underline{e}}}{})$ A private person acting on his own account is |
| 436 | justified in using physical force upon another person when and               |
| 437 | to the extent that he reasonably believes it necessary to                    |
| 438 | effect an arrest or to prevent the escape from custody of an                 |
| 439 | arrested person whom he reasonably believes has committed a                  |
| 440 | felony and who in fact has committed that felony, but he is                  |
| 441 | justified in using deadly physical force for the purpose only                |
| 442 | when he reasonably believes it necessary to defend himself or                |
| 443 | a third person from what he reasonably believes to be the use                |
| 444 | or imminent use of deadly physical force.                                    |
| 445 | (h) A guard or peace officer employed in a detention                         |
| 446 | facility is justified:   |
| 447 | (1) In using deadly physical force when and to the                           |
| 448 | extent that he reasonably believes it necessary to prevent                   |
| 449 | what he reasonably believes to be the escape of a prisoner                   |
| 450 | accused or convicted of a felony from any detention facility,                |
| 451 | or from armed escort or guard;   |
| 452 | (2) In using physical force, but not deadly physical                         |
| 453 | force, in all other circumstances when and to extent that he                 |
| 454 | reasonably believes it necessary to prevent what he reasonably               |
| 455 | believes to be the escape of a prisoner from a detention                     |
| 456 | facility.  |
| 457 | (3) "Detention facility" means any place used for the                        |

| 458 | confinement, pursuant to law, of a person:                    |
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| 459 | a. Charged with or convicted of an offense; or                |
| 460 | b. Charged with being or adjudicated a youthful               |
| 461 | offender, a neglected minor or juvenile delinquent; or        |
| 462 | c. Held for extradition; or                                   |
| 463 | d. Otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a               |
| 464 | criminal court.   |
| 465 | (f)(1) A person who uses force, including deadly physical     |
| 466 | force, as justified and permitted in this section is immune   |
| 467 | from criminal prosecution for the use of such force, unless   |
| 468 | the force is determined to be unlawful under this section.    |
| 469 | (2) Prior to the commencement of a trial in a case in         |
| 470 | which a defense is claimed under this section, the court      |
| 471 | having jurisdiction over the case, upon motion of the         |
| 472 | defendant, shall conduct a pretrial hearing to determine      |
| 473 | whether force, including deadly force, used by the defendant  |
| 474 | was justified or was unlawful under this section. During any  |
| 475 | pretrial hearing to determine immunity, the defendant must    |
| 476 | show by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she is     |
| 477 | immune from criminal prosecution.                             |
| 478 | (3) After a pretrial hearing under subdivision (2), the       |
| 479 | case shall not proceed to trial until the court enters a      |
| 480 | written order setting forth reasons that the defendant lacks  |
| 481 | immunity from criminal prosecution under this section. If the |
| 482 | court concludes that the defendant has proven by a            |

| 483 | preponderance of the evidence that force, including deadly     |
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| 484 | force, was justified, the court shall enter an order finding   |
| 485 | the defendant immune from criminal prosecution under this      |
| 486 | section and dismissing the criminal charges.                   |
| 487 | (4) If the defendant does not meet his or her burden of        |
| 488 | proving immunity at the pretrial hearing, he or she may        |
| 489 | continue to pursue justification and immunity under this       |
| 490 | section as a defense at trial. Once the issue of justification |
| 491 | and immunity under this section has been raised by the         |
| 492 | defendant, the state continues to bear the burden of proving   |
| 493 | beyond a reasonable doubt all of the elements of the charged   |
| 494 | conduct.   |
| 495 | (g)(1) A court order improperly denying immunity under         |
| 496 | this section, entered after the pretrial hearing provided      |
| 497 | under subsection (f), shall entitle the defendant to mandamus  |
| 498 | relief from the Alabama Supreme Court. Any petition for a writ |
| 499 | of mandamus pursuant to this subsection shall be filed         |
| 500 | pursuant to the Alabama Rules of Appellate Procedure.          |
| 501 | (2) The filing of a petition for a writ of mandamus            |
| 502 | pursuant to subdivision (1) shall automatically stay further   |
| 503 | proceedings in the trial court. The stay shall remain in       |
| 504 | effect while the mandamus petition remains pending.            |
| 505 | (h) A law enforcement agency may use standard                  |
| 506 | procedures for investigating the use of force described in     |
| 507 | subsection (a), but the agency may not arrest the person for   |

| 508 | using force unless it determines that there is probable cause             |
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| 509 | that the force used was unlawful under this section."                     |
| 510 | "§13A-3-28  |
| 511 | A person may not use physical force to resist a lawful                    |
| 512 | arrest by a <pre>peace officer law enforcement officer</pre> who is known |
| 513 | or reasonably appears to be a <pre>peace officer law enforcement</pre>    |
| 514 | <pre>officer."</pre>  |
| 515 | Section 6. Section 6-5-338, relating to peace officer                     |
| 516 | immunity, is hereby repealed.   |
| 517 | Section 7. This act shall become effective on October                     |
| 518 | 1, 2025.  |