A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	PART I
2	SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
3	adding a new chapter to title 2 to be appropriately designated
4	and to read as follows:
5	"CHAPTER
6	SHERIFF
7	§ -1 Sheriff election; nonpartisan. The election of the
8	sheriff shall be nonpartisan in nature.
9	§ -2 Sheriff election; process. Elections for the
10	office of the sheriff shall be conducted as follows:
11	(1) If, after the close of filing of nomination papers,
12	there is only one qualified candidate for the office
13	of the sheriff, the chief election officer shall
14	declare the candidate to be duly and legally elected,
15	and shall not include the contest for the office of
16	the sheriff on any ballots for the primary election or
17	general election;



1 (2) If, after the close of filing nomination papers, there are only two qualified candidates for the office of 2 the sheriff, the chief election officer shall declare 3 4 those two candidates duly nominated for the general 5 election, and shall not include the contest for the 6 office of the sheriff on any ballots for the primary 7 election; 8 (3) If, at the close of filing of nomination papers, there 9 are three or more qualified candidates for the office 10 of the sheriff, the names of those candidates shall be 11 listed on the primary election ballot. The two 12 candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall 13 be nominated at the primary election for the general 14 election; provided that if any candidate receives more 15 than fifty per cent of the total votes cast at the 16 primary election, the chief election officer shall 17 declare that candidate to be duly and legally elected 18 and shall not include the contest for the office of 19 the sheriff on any ballots for the general election; 20 and

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1	(4) The candidate for the office of the sheriff who
2	receives the most votes at a general election shall be
3	elected to the office; provided that in the case of a
4	tie, the tie shall be decided pursuant to section
5	11-157."
6	SECTION 2. Chapter 17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
7	by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
8	read as follows:
9	" <u>§17-</u> Sheriff. (a) Whenever any vacancy in the office
10	of the sheriff occurs, the term of which ends in the December
11	immediately following the next succeeding general election, the
12	first deputy sheriff of law enforcement shall fill the vacancy
13	for the unexpired term.
14	(b) In the case of a vacancy, the term of which does not
15	end in the December immediately following the next succeeding
16	general election:
17	(1) If it occurs not later than on the ninetieth day prior
18	to the next succeeding primary election, the vacancy
19	shall be filled for the unexpired term at a special
20	nonpartisan election held in conjunction with the next
21	succeeding general election. The chief election



1		officer shall issue a proclamation designating the
2		election for filling the vacancy. All candidates for
3		the unexpired term shall file nomination papers not
4		later than the date and time specified in section 12-6
5		and shall be nominated and elected in accordance with
6		this title. Pending the election, the first deputy
7		sheriff of law enforcement shall temporarily fill the
8		vacancy; or
9	(2)	If it occurs after the ninetieth day prior to the next
10		succeeding primary election, the vacancy shall be
11		filled by the first deputy sheriff of law
12		enforcement."
13	SECT	ION 3. Section 11-114, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14	amended t	o read as follows:
15	"§11	-114 Order of offices on ballot. The order of offices
16	on a ball	ot shall be arranged substantially as follows: first,
17	president	and vice president of the United States; next, United
18	States se	nators; next, United States house of representatives;
19	next, gov	ernor and lieutenant governor; <u>next, sheriff;</u> next,
20	state sen	ators; next, state representatives; and next, county
21	offices."	

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1	SECTIO	ON 4. Section 11-331, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2	amended by	amending subsection (d) to read as follows:
3	"(d)	For purposes of this part, whenever a report is
4	required to	o be filed with the commission, "filed" means that a
5	report shal	ll be filed with the commission's electronic filing
6	system by t	the date and time specified for the filing of the
7	report by:	
8	(1)	The candidate or candidate committee of a candidate
9	V	who is seeking election to the:
10		(A) Office of governor;
11		(B) Office of lieutenant governor;
12		(C) Office of sheriff;
13	[(C)]	(D) Office of mayor;
14	[(D)]	(E) Office of prosecuting attorney;
15	[(E)] <u>(</u>	(F) County council;
16	[(F)] _	(G) Senate;
17	[(G)] <u>(</u>	(H) House of representatives; or
18	[(H)] <u>(</u>	(I) Office of Hawaiian affairs; or
19	(2) <i>I</i>	A noncandidate committee required to be registered
20	V	with the commission pursuant to section 11-323."

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1 SECTION 5. Section 11-342, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 2 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows: 3 "(d) As used in this section: 4 "Elected official" means an individual who currently holds 5 an elected state or county office, including the governor, 6 lieutenant governor, sheriff, state senator, state 7 representative, trustee of the office of Hawaiian affairs, 8 county mayor, county council member, county prosecuting 9 attorney, and any individual appointed to serve in any of the 10 aforementioned offices. 11 "Fundraiser" means any function held for the benefit of a 12 candidate, candidate committee, or noncandidate committee that 13 is intended or designed, directly or indirectly, to raise 14 contributions for which any price is charged or any contribution 15 is suggested for attending the function. 16 "Fundraiser event" means any function held for the benefit 17 of an elected official that is intended or designed, directly or 18 indirectly, to raise contributions for which any price is

charged or any contribution is suggested for attending the

20 function."

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1 SECTION 6. Section 12-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows: 3 "(a) Nomination papers for candidates for members of 4 Congress, governor, [and], lieutenant governor, and sheriff 5 shall be signed by not less than twenty-five registered voters 6 of the State or of the Congressional district from which the 7 candidates are running in the case of candidates for the United 8 States House of Representatives." 9 PART II 10 SECTION 7. Section 26-14.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 11 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows: 12 "(a) The department of law enforcement shall be headed by 13 a single executive to be known as the [director of law 14 enforcement.] sheriff. 15 (b) The [director of law enforcement] sheriff shall 16 [appoint, without regard to chapter 76, two deputy directors to 17 serve at the director's pleasure. Unless otherwise assigned by 18 the director, one deputy director shall oversee the law 19 enforcement programs of the department of law enforcement and 20 one deputy director shall oversee administration of the

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1 department of law enforcement.] make appointments pursuant to
2 section 353C-3 and other applicable law."

3 SECTION 8. Section 47-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§47-18 Action on default. In case of any default in the 6 payment of the principal of any bonds at maturity or of the 7 interest thereon when the same becomes due, the holder of any of 8 the bonds on which any default is made may bring an action at 9 law against the county making the default, for the amount due by 10 reason of the default, and should any moneys be then or 11 thereafter payable by the State to the county which is defendant 12 in the action, the holder, in the petition and prayer for 13 process, may insert a request to the court issuing process to 14 insert therein a direction to the officer serving the same to 15 leave a true copy thereof attested by any chief of police, the 16 sheriff, [deputy sheriff_r] or their authorized subordinates, 17 with the state comptroller, who, hereafter in this chapter, is 18 called the garnishee."

19 SECTION 9. Section 105-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is20 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

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1	"§105-4 Enforcement; duties of [sheriffs] <u>sheriff, deputy</u>
2	sheriffs, and police officers."
3	SECTION 10. Section 128A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4	amended by deleting the definition of "director".
5	[""Director" means the director of law enforcement."]
6	SECTION 11. Section 128A-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7	amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:
8	"(b) The members of the statewide interoperable
9	communications executive committee shall include the following:
10	(1) The [director of law enforcement] <u>sheriff</u> or the
11	[director's] <u>sheriff's</u> designee, who shall serve as
12	the chair of the committee;
13	(2) The attorney general or the attorney general's
14	designee;
15	(3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
16	resources or the chairperson's designee;
17	(4) The state chief information officer or the chief
18	information officer's designee;
19	(5) The director of transportation or the director's
20	designee;
21	(6) The director of health or the director's designee;

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1	(7)	The chairperson of the Hawaii enhanced 911 board or
2		the chairperson's designee; and
3	(8)	Four members at the executive or senior personnel
4		level from the first responder or emergency management
5		agencies from each of the four counties, to be
6		selected by the respective heads of the first
7		responder or emergency management agencies of each
8		county."
9	SECT	ION 12. Section 134-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10	amended b	y amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
11	"(a)	Any person, not authorized by law, who carries
12	concealed	upon the person's self or within any vehicle used or
13	occupied [by the person or who is found armed with any dirk,
14	dagger, b	lackjack, slug shot, billy, metal knuckles, pistol, or
15	other dea	dly or dangerous weapon shall be guilty of a
16	misdemean	or and may be immediately arrested without warrant by
17	any <u>deput</u>	y sheriff, police officer, or other officer or person.
18	Any weapo:	n, above enumerated, upon conviction of the one
19	carrying	or possessing it under this section, shall be summarily
20	destroyed	by the chief of police or sheriff."

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1 SECTION 13. Section 134-81, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 2 amended by amending the definition of "law enforcement officer" to read as follows: 3 4 ""Law enforcement officer" means a [sheriff or] deputy 5 sheriff, a police officer, an enforcement officer within the 6 division of conservation and resources enforcement of the 7 department of land and natural resources, a special agent of the 8 department of the attorney general, and any other public servant 9 vested by law with a duty to maintain public order, make arrests 10 for offenses, or enforce criminal laws, whether that duty 11 extends to all offenses or is limited to a specific class of 12 offenses." 13 SECTION 14. Section 139-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 14 amended by amending subsections (b) to (d) to read as follows: 15 "(b) After receiving written notification, the division 16 head shall complete an investigation pursuant to subsection (c) 17 as soon as practicable and notify the [state department] first 18 deputy [director] sheriff of law enforcement or chief of police 19 of the respective county, as applicable, of the outcome of the 20 investigation in writing.

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1 (C) Any division head who receives a report of use of 2 excessive force under this section shall immediately begin 3 conducting an investigation and reach a timely determination on 4 the merits. If the division head determines that sufficient 5 evidence shows that the law enforcement officer used excessive 6 force, the name of the law enforcement officer who exercised the 7 use of excessive force and act of excessive force shall be 8 disclosed to the [state department] first deputy [director] 9 sheriff of law enforcement or chief of police of the respective county, as applicable. If the division head determines that 10 11 evidence of use of excessive force is insufficient, the division 12 head shall provide the [state department] first deputy 13 [director] sheriff of law enforcement or chief of police of the 14 respective county, as applicable, with the outcome of the 15 investigation but shall redact any personally identifiable information of the individuals involved in the investigation. 16 17 (d) Within fifteen days of receiving written notification 18 of the outcome of the investigation, the [state-department] 19 first deputy [director] sheriff of law enforcement or chief of 20 police who received the written notification shall notify the 21 [state department director] sheriff or police commission of the

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1 respective county, as applicable, of the outcome of the 2 investigation in writing."

3 SECTION 15. Section 143-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending the definition of "officer" to read as
5 follows:

6 ""Officer" means any deputy sheriff, [deputy,] any member 7 of a police force [in counties] serving any county with a 8 population of less than 100,000 [and], or any animal control 9 [officers] officer of the several counties of the State." 10 SECTION 16. Section 291C-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 11 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows: 12 "(b) As used in this section, "emergency vehicle" means a police or fire department vehicle, ocean safety vehicle, 13 14 emergency medical services vehicle, freeway service patrol 15 vehicle, department of law enforcement vehicle, deputy sheriff [division] vehicle, Hawaii emergency management agency vehicle, 16 17 county emergency management vehicle, civil defense vehicle, 18 department of transportation harbors division vehicle, 19 department of land and natural resources division of 20 conservation and resources enforcement vehicle, or a tow truck."

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SECTION 17. Section 326-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 amended to read as follows:

3 "§326-35 [Sheriff,] Deputy sheriff, appointment, removal. 4 There shall be no county officer in the county other than a 5 deputy sheriff, who shall be a patient resident of and be 6 appointed in the county by the [department of health] sheriff 7 and who shall hold office at the pleasure of the [department] 8 sheriff or until a successor is appointed by the [department.] 9 sheriff. When a qualified patient resident is not available, 10 the [department] sheriff may appoint a staff employee or other 11 qualified person to serve as sheriff."

12 SECTION 18. Section 329-69, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 13 amended to read as follows:

14 "§329-69 Subpoena powers. Subject to the privileges which 15 witnesses have in the courts of this State, the [director of law 16 enforcement] sheriff or the [director's] sheriff's designated 17 subordinate is empowered pursuant to and in accordance with the 18 rules of court to subpoena witnesses, examine them under oath 19 and require the production of books, papers, documents or 20 objects where the [director of law enforcement] sheriff 21 reasonably believes the information sought is relevant or

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1 material to enforcement of this chapter. Books, papers, 2 documents, or objects obtained pursuant to exercise of these 3 powers may be retained by the [director of law enforcement] 4 sheriff or the [director's] sheriff's designate for forty-eight 5 hours for the purpose of examination, audit, copying, testing, 6 or photographing. Upon application by the [director of law 7 enforcement, sheriff, obedience to the subpoenas may be 8 enforced by the circuit court in the county where the person 9 subpoenaed resides or is found in the same manner as a subpoena 10 issued by the clerk of a circuit court." 11 SECTION 19. Section 353C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 12 amended as follows: 13 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted 14 and to read: 15 ""Sheriff" means the single executive of the department." 16 2. By deleting the definition of "director". 17 [""Director" means the director of law enforcement."] 18 SECTION 20. Section 353C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 19 amended to read as follows: 20 "§353C-2 [Director of law enforcement;] Sheriff; powers 21 and duties. (a) The [director of law enforcement] sheriff



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1 shall administer the public safety programs of the department 2 and shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation 3 of state goals and objectives for state law enforcement programs 4 and homeland security, including the deployment of adequate 5 resources and coordination with county police departments to protect the health and safety of homestead communities on 6 7 Hawaiian home lands. In the administration of these programs, 8 the [director] sheriff may: 9 (1)Preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and 10 arrest offenders against the law, protect the rights 11 of persons and property, and enforce and prevent 12 violation of all laws and administrative rules of the 13 State as the [director] sheriff deems to be necessary 14 or desirable or upon request, to assist other state officers or agencies that have primary administrative 15 16 responsibility over specific subject matters or 17 programs; 18 (2) Train, equip, maintain, and supervise the force of law 19 enforcement officers and other employees of the 20 department; 21 Serve process both in civil and criminal proceedings; (3)

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1	(4)	Perform other duties as may be required by law;
2	(5)	Adopt, pursuant to chapter 91, rules that are
3		necessary or desirable for the administration of state
4		law enforcement programs; and
5	(6)	Enter into contracts on behalf of the department and
6		take all actions deemed necessary and appropriate for
7		the proper and efficient administration of the
8		department.
9	(b)	The sheriff shall also advise the governor on law
10	enforceme	nt matters; provided that this subsection shall not be
11	construed	to provide that the sheriff is subject to the orders
12	of the go	vernor."
13	SECT	ION 21. Section 353C-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14	amended to	o read as follows:
15	"§35:	3C-3 [Deputy directors;] <u>First deputy sheriffs;</u>
16	appointme	nt. The [director] <u>sheriff</u> shall appoint, without
17	regard to	chapter 76, [two deputy directors to serve at the
18	director':	s pleasure. Unless otherwise assigned by the
19	director,] <u>one first</u> deputy [director] <u>sheriff of law</u>
20	enforceme	nt, who shall oversee the law enforcement programs of
21	the depart	tment, and one <u>first</u> deputy [director] <u>sheriff of</u>

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administration, who shall oversee administration of the 2 department. The sheriff may also assign other duties to the 3 first deputies, who shall serve at the sheriff's pleasure." SECTION 22. Section 353C-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 4 5 amended to read as follows: 6 "[**[**]**§353C-9**[**]**] Department accreditation required. The 7 department shall pursue and obtain accreditation [for the 8 sheriff division from the Commission on Accreditation for Law 9 Enforcement Agencies, Inc." 10 SECTION 23. Section 386-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 11 amended by amending the definition of "sheriffs' chaplain" to 12 read as follows: 13 ""Sheriffs' chaplain" means a member of an authorized 14 chaplaincy program of the department of law enforcement who 15 performs functions similar to a police chaplain in a voluntary 16 and unpaid capacity [for the sheriff division]." 17 SECTION 24. Section 651-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 18 amended by amending subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows: 19 "(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to make an 20 independent civil process server a law enforcement officer,

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1 [sheriff, or] deputy sheriff, or an employee or agent of the department of law enforcement or the State. 2 3 (d) As used in this chapter, "police officer" means the 4 [director of law enforcement] sheriff or the [director's] 5 sheriff's duly authorized representative, any chief of police or 6 subordinate police officer, or an independent civil process 7 server on the list maintained by the department of law 8 enforcement pursuant to section 353C-11." 9 SECTION 25. Section 803-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 10 amended to read as follows: 11 "§803-23 Searching vessels without warrant; penalty. Ιt 12 shall be lawful for [the] any deputy sheriff or [a] police 13 officer $[\tau]$ to search any vessel for deserters, criminals, or 14 other offenders, without a warrant, on producing to the 15 commanding officer of the vessel the deputy sheriff's or police 16 officer's commission or appointment as sheriff or police 17 officer; and the commanding officer of a vessel who refuses any 18 deputy sheriff or police officer, access to the vessel or any 19 part thereof shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than 20 \$1,000."

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SECTION 26. Section 803-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 amended to read as follows:

"§803-35 Deputies or police officers may serve. If the
search warrant is directed to [a] the sheriff or a chief of
police, it may be executed by the sheriff or chief of police or
any of the sheriff's deputies or the chief's police officers.
An individual or entity authorized pursuant to section 803-37 to
provide technical assistance may assist a deputy or police
officer."

10 SECTION 27. Section 804-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "§804-5 By whom allowed. In cases where the punishment 13 for the offense charged may be imprisonment for life not subject 14 to parole, or imprisonment for a term more than ten years with 15 or without fine, a judge or justice of a court of record, 16 including a district judge, shall be competent to admit the 17 accused to bail, in conformity with sections 804-3 to 804-6. In 18 all other cases, the accused may be so admitted to bail by any 19 judge or justice of a court of record, including a district 20 judge, and in cases, except under section 712-1207, where the 21 punishment for the offense charged may not exceed two years'

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1 imprisonment with or without fine, the sheriff, the sheriff's 2 deputy, the chief of police or any person named by the chief of 3 police, or the deputy sheriff of Kalawao, regardless of the 4 circuit within which the alleged offense was committed, may 5 admit the accused person to bail. The court shall impose 6 conditions of release or bail that are the least restrictive 7 conditions required to ensure the accused's appearance and to 8 protect the public."

9 SECTION 28. Section 804-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is10 amended to read as follows:

11 "§804-18 Witness, summary process for. Courts may also, 12 on motion of the public prosecutor, order [any] the sheriff or 13 chief of police or the sheriff's or chief's authorized 14 subordinate to arrest and bring before them any person who has 15 been bound by recognizance or summoned to appear and give 16 testimony and who has not attended at the time appointed. When 17 so arrested, the witnesses may be also fined in any sum not 18 exceeding \$100 for their neglect, and shall remain in custody 19 until they give their testimony and are discharged from further 20 attendance, or until they give such security as shall satisfy 21 the court, for their appearance to testify."

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SECTION 29. Section 804-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

3 "§804-41 Discharge of surety. At any time before the
4 breach of the condition of the bond, the surety may discharge
5 oneself by surrendering the principal into the hands of [any]
6 the sheriff or the chief of police or the sheriff's or chief's
7 authorized subordinate."

8 SECTION 30. Sections 76-16, 84-18, 88-21, 128B-1, 134C-2, 9 139-1, 139-2, 200-27, 226-64, 291-31.5, 329-51, 329-59, 346-382, 10 577E-3, 587A-4, 614-2, and 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are 11 amended by substituting the term "sheriff" wherever the term 12 "director of law enforcement" appears, as the context requires. 13 SECTION 31. Sections 78-52, 183D-11, 187A-14, 325-9, and 14 353C-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by substituting 15 the term "deputy sheriff", or similar term, wherever the term 16 "sheriff, deputy sheriff", "sheriff or deputy sheriff", or similar term, appears, as the context requires. 17

18 SECTION 32. Sections 128A-3, 128A-4, 128A-6, 353C-4, 19 353C-5, and 353C-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by 20 substituting the term "sheriff" wherever the term "director" 21 appears, as the context requires.

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1	SECTION 33. Sections 143-7, 231-25, 249-14.2, 281-108,
2	286-52, 286-52.5, 321-1, 326-36, 326-37, 326-38, 353-11,
3	356D-54, 356D-64, 356D-94, 383-71, 482E-4, 485A-202, 501-42,
4	501-171, 501-218, 712-1200, 712-1200.5, 712-1209.1, 803-34,
5	804-14, and 846-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are amended by
6	substituting the term "deputy sheriff", "deputy sheriffs", or
7	similar term, wherever the term "sheriff", "sheriffs", or
8	similar term, appears, as the context requires.
9	PART III
10	SECTION 34. This Act does not affect rights and duties
11	that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
12	were begun before its effective date.
13	SECTION 35. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14	and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
15	SECTION 36. This Act shall only take effect upon
16	ratification, during the 2024 general election, of a
17	constitutional amendment requiring the election of a sheriff as
18	the single executive of the department of law enforcement;
19	provided that:

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(1) Part I shall take effect on January 1, 2025; and
 (2) Part II shall take effect on December 1, 2026.
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INTRODUCED BY: 2 2 2024 JAN



Report Title:

Sheriff; Elections; Administration; Conforming Amendments

Description:

Takes effect only upon ratification of constitutional amendment requiring the election of the Sheriff as the single executive of the Department of Law Enforcement. Effective 1/1/2025, amends elections law to accommodate the election of the Sheriff. Effective 12/1/2026, makes statutory amendments to make administrative changes to the Department.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

