



MEMORANDUM

From: Christopher Bruce, Political Director; Nicole Robinson, Policy Analyst
To: Chairman John Corbett and Members of the Full House Motor Vehicles Committee
Date: March 14, 2021
Re: Senate Bill 115 [LC 39 2907S]

Sponsors: Senator Randy Robertson (R-29), et al.

Committee: Senate Committee on Public Safety; House Committee on Motor Vehicles

Bill Status: Senate Passed/Adopted by Substitute (36-13); House Second Readers

ACLU GA Issue Area(s) Addressed: Equality, Policing

Code Section(s) Addressed: O.C.G.A 40-5-1 relating to general provisions regarding drivers' licenses.

Summary:

Senate Bill 115 requires the Department of Drivers Services to design, and the Department of Public Safety to offer, a driver instruction course that would include the following information:

1. Best practices for what to do when stopped by a law enforcement officer [lines 22-23].
2. Recommendations on how to speak to the officer when stopped [line 24].
3. The consequences of "continual citations and habitual violence" [line 25].
4. The rights of law enforcement officer's when interacting with a civilian during a traffic stop, including their rights relating to "requesting identification, use of force, detainment, pursuits, and legal warnings" [lines 26-28].

ACLU of Georgia Position: The ACLU of Georgia *OPPOSES*** this legislation** because it ignores the root causes of dangerous law enforcement and civilian interactions. This legislation wrongly places the onus on the civilians to protect themselves from harm when interacting with law enforcement officers.

Reason(s) to oppose:

1. This legislation wrongly suggests that police violence against people of color, and especially Black men, results primarily from bad behavior on the part of detained people. Instead, the focus should be on addressing racial profiling, use of excessive force, and other systemic issues, that poison interactions between law enforcement and civilians.

Senate Bill 115 Concerns

- **It should not be up to civilians to ensure they are not the subjects of police brutality.**
- **This bill fails to address the true issues within the modern day policing system. It fails to address the fact that police disproportionately kill and use force against Black people.**
 - Police violence is a leading cause of death for Black men: A recent study found that 1 in 1,000 Black men can expect to be killed by police, and

public health experts have described police violence as a serious public health issue.

- **There is a longstanding adversarial relationship between police and the communities they serve, especially communities of color. This bill does nothing to meaningfully address this.**
 - We need to create police departments that work collaboratively and democratically with *all* of the communities they serve, increasing transparency, accountability, fairness, and public safety. SB 115 does not do that.
- **SB 115 does nothing more than perpetuate the falsehood that civilians are responsible for the way police treat them.**