



## Office of Governor Asa Hutchinson

### Recommendations From the Task Force to Advance The State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas

#### Increase ratio of full-time to part-time officers

- The proposed legislation limits a law-enforcement agency to two (2) part-time officers for every full-time officer and mirrors the current requirement for auxiliary officers.
- A higher ratio of full-time officers will strengthen in-house training and enhance stability. It will improve oversight and accountability, especially in smaller departments.

#### Enhance accountability for excessive force, dishonesty or deceit

This proposal adds two (2) new components for mandatory reporting to the Commission on Law-Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST) when an officer leaves a department.

- **Current:** When a law-enforcement officer is dismissed or resigns, the officer's agency must report the following incidents to CLEST:
  - An officer's failure to meet the minimum qualifications for employment or appointment as a law-enforcement officer;
  - An officer's violation of state or federal law;
  - An officer's violation of the law-enforcement agency's regulations; and
  - An officer's resignation while subject of an internal investigation.
- **Proposed:** The new legislation would add two (2) categories for mandatory reporting:
  - An officer's use of excessive force.
  - An officer's dishonesty or deceit.

#### Strengthen oversight, structure, and organization in new law-enforcement agencies

- The proposed legislation would give CLEST authority to require new law-enforcement agencies to have a full-time police chief.

#### Recommendations the Governor can adopt without legislation

- Increase mandatory annual bias training from two hours to four hours.
- Develop programs in cooperation with community leaders, faith-based organizations, and nonprofits to build trust between communities and law-enforcement officers.
- Maintain and expand awareness of the Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU). Incorporate de-escalation and crisis-intervention training into minimum training standards.
- Support a strong bilingual "Know Your Rights and What to Do When You're Pulled Over" campaign. Many new drivers as well as experienced drivers do not understand how to respond during a traffic stop.
- Encourage law-enforcement agencies to participate in the National Use of Force Data Collection program, which offers law-enforcement agencies and communities a more accurate picture of the trends and the actual number of incidents in which excessive or lethal force is used.