

HB 234 -- FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Franks Jr.

This bill establishes the "First Amendment Protection Act" and specifies that no law enforcement officer or agency shall declare an unlawful assembly for the sole purpose of punishing individuals for exercising their constitutional rights to engage in expressive activity. The bill further specifies various provisions in which law enforcement officers and agencies are prohibited from engaging. The bill provides exceptions for when individuals at the scene present an imminent threat of violence or bodily harm to persons or damage to property, or where law enforcement officers are required to defend themselves, other persons, or property against imminent threat of violence.

This bill is similar to HB 1586 (2018).