

HB 59 -- PROTECTION OF FIRST RESPONDERS (Schnelting)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Public Safety

The bill creates the offense of unlawful posting of personally identifying information over the Internet if he or she knowingly posts the name, home address, Social Security number, telephone number, or other personal information of any first responder on the Internet with the intent to cause great bodily harm or death to the first responder or with the intent to threaten great bodily harm or death to the first responder. The offense of unlawful posting of personally identifying information over the Internet is a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also establishes the "Police Use of Force Transparency Act of 2021", which provides that all law enforcement agencies must, at least annually, collect and report local data to the National Use of Force Data Collection through the Law Enforcement Enterprise portal administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on use-of-force incidents involving peace officers. Law enforcement agencies must also report such data to the Attorney General. Information collected and reported must not include personally identifying information of individual officers. By June 30, 2022, the Attorney General must develop standards and procedures governing the collecting and reporting of the data. The Attorney General must publish the data reported by law enforcement agencies, and the data will be considered a public record, consistent with state law. The Attorney General must analyze trends and disparities in the data and report the findings and make the report available to the public no later than January 1, 2025. These provisions have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2022.