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This bill adds law enforcement agencies that are participating for the purpose of screening employees or applicants for employment to the list of qualified entities that may participate in the National Rap Back Program. Prior to offering employment to any law enforcement officer, all law enforcement agencies must perform a pre-employment screening with the applicant's previous employers for all jobs related to law enforcement in order to determine whether the applicant has any history of employment-related disciplinary action.

The bill also specifies that a law enforcement officer is justified in using a chokehold when attempting to effect an arrest or prevent an escape from custody if the officer reasonably believes that it is necessary in order to defend himself or herself or a third person from what the officer believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force or infliction of serious physical injury.

Under current law, when the Director of Public Safety has knowledge of cause to discipline a law enforcement officer, the Director files a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commission, and the Commission conducts a hearing to determine whether there is in fact cause to discipline the law enforcement officer. Under this bill, the Director will file a complaint with the law enforcement Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, and the Commission will conduct the hearing. A law enforcement officer may appeal any order of probation, suspension, or license revocation issued under Section 590.080, RSMo, by filing a notice of appeal with the Administrative Hearing Commission as specified in the bill.

The bill specifies that a law enforcement officer must intervene to attempt to prevent or stop another officer from using physical force that the intervening officer reasonably believes, based on his or her law enforcement expertise and experience, exceeds the degree of force permitted. The intervening officer must report the intervention to his or her immediate supervisor or to the person next in the chain of command. The intervening officer must not be retaliated against or disciplined in any way for intervening, reporting unconstitutional conduct, or failing to follow a directive the officer believes is unauthorized and illegal. When an internal investigation finds that the officer failed to intervene to prevent the use of unlawful physical force and the incident resulted in serious bodily injury or death to any person, the officer shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.