

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1223

5 By: Representative Underwood
6 By: Senator Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO WITHHOLD TURNBACK FUNDS TO CITIES OF THE
10 FIRST CLASS THAT DEFUND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

14 THE BACK THE BLUE ACT.
15
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 52, Subchapter 1, is
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 14-52-114. Funding protection.

23 (a)(1) As used in this section, "defunding municipality" means a city
24 of the first class that:

25 (A) Abolishes or disbands the city police department
26 without reconstituting the police department; or

27 (B) Reduces the budget of the city police department by
28 twenty-five percent (25%) or more without reallocating the funds to a public
29 safety and law enforcement program for the purposes under § 14-52-101.

30 (2) As used in this section, "defunding municipality" does not
31 mean a city of the first class that decreases the budget of the city police
32 department by twenty-five percent (25%) or more as a result of an annual
33 operating budget decrease due to an overall decrease in tax collection within
34 the city.

35 (b) A defunding municipality is not eligible for revenues allocated
36 and distributed to the defunding municipality under § 19-5-601.



1 (c) A defunding municipality may petition the Legislative Council or,
2 if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee for a
3 waiver of the application of subsection (b) of this section.

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36