

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7290

To amend title 18, United States Code, to revise the applicable standards regarding death resulting from a deprivation of rights under color of law.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2026

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to revise the applicable standards regarding death resulting from a deprivation of rights under color of law.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Qualified Immunity
5 Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF LAW.**

7 Section 242 of title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) by striking “willfully” and inserting “know-
10 ingly or recklessly”;

1 (2) by striking “, or may be sentenced to
2 death”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following: “For
4 purposes of this section, an act shall be considered
5 to have resulted in death if the act was a substantial
6 factor contributing to the death of the person.”.

7 **SEC. 3. QUALIFIED IMMUNITY REFORM.**

8 Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes of the United
9 States (42 U.S.C. 1983) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

11 “It shall not be a defense or immunity in any action
12 brought under this section against a local law enforcement
13 officer (as such term is defined in section 2 of the George
14 Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2025), or in any action
15 under any source of law against a Federal investigative
16 or law enforcement officer (as such term is defined in sec-
17 tion 2680(h) of title 28, United States Code), that—

18 “(1) the defendant was acting in good faith, or
19 that the defendant believed, reasonably or otherwise,
20 that his or her conduct was lawful at the time when
21 the conduct was committed; or

22 “(2) the rights, privileges, or immunities se-
23 cured by the Constitution and laws were not clearly
24 established at the time of their deprivation by the
25 defendant, or that at such time, the state of the law

1 was otherwise such that the defendant could not rea-
2 sonably have been expected to know whether his or
3 her conduct was lawful.”.

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