

To the committee:

In light of the Chauvin conviction earlier this week, and the pleading of bystanders for him to stop killing George Floyd, we need to remember that these bystanders who were pleading to stop a murder could be regarded as distracting or interfering with a police officer. The murder of George Floyd aroused protests around the country and the world, and too often, police acted with the same "us vs them", "might makes right," attitude, instead of learning from the past and remembering the mission of serving the people and protecting their safety and rights. Citizens need to be able to speak up for themselves and others, even when the violence is coming from the police. HB 22 comes from the perspective that police need more tools which can be used against protesters as well as other people. What evidence is there that police need more ways to charge people? What is evident is that police procedures, and the larger protection of public safety, need much reform and shifting of resources, but HB 22 does nothing to address these. Instead, it targets the public and is part of a 4-bill package to intimidate people out of protesting, and to threaten the rights of the people. Please stop HB 22.