# POLICE DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSPARENCY

## THE PROBLEM

When it comes to policing, lawmakers lack even the most basic information about what police in their communities do.

Law enforcement agencies collect little data, and what data there is is too often hard to access. We do not know how many people are stopped each year by police, or even killed. We even lack basic data about how many complaints police departments receive and how much taxpayer money is spent to compensate victims of police misconduct. Coupled with a failure by some policing agencies to make public patrol guides and other basic rules officers are supposed to follow, elected officials and communities have little insight into what their local police actually do.

Publicly reporting basic policing information will allow lawmakers to hold officers and agencies accountable, and provides communities with the necessary information to ensure that policing is carried out in a way that addresses their needs.

## THE SOLUTION

This statute ensures that lawmakers and community members have access to basic information about individual law enforcement agencies as well as officer conduct. It also ensures that data collection practices are standardized across policing agencies so it is possible to compare police departments to each other. The statute also backs up all of these requirements with robust enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance.

Our approach is comprehensive. Although some states have adopted piecemeal transparency legislation, none have gone far enough in providing lawmakers and the public with a clear understanding of policing in their communities.

## WHAT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC

### Information about agencies

- Requires law enforcement agencies to release basic information about the agency as a whole, including department policies and procedures, union agreements and payouts from police misconduct.

  **Examples:** *Someone can look online to see their local police department's policy on the use of facial recognition.*

  *Someone can see if their city has spent more money on police misconduct than neighboring communities.*

## Information about officer interactions with the public

- Requires policing agencies to collect and report out demographic data on all stops, arrests, use of force incidents and complaints against officers.

- All data is reported to the state attorney general in a standard format to allow people to see how their police department compares to others.

  **Example:** *Someone can look online to see how many people were stopped by the police in their city, and to see if Black residents were disproportionately stopped.*

## Information about investigations into complaints against officers and access to body camera footage

- Addresses public access to complaint records, use of force incidents resulting in death or serious injury and body camera recordings.

- Ensures that the public has access to critical information while also protecting individual privacy interests and respecting ongoing investigations.

  **Examples:** *If someone is stopped by the police, and thinks they were treated unfairly, they can go to the department and ask to see video of the incident.*

  *If a person is shot or killed by the police, video footage must be released to the public within a specified time.*