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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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

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

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 “_____ Act
5 of 2026”.

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

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

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

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

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

9 **SEC. 3. QUALIFIED IMMUNITY REFORM.**

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

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

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

24 “(2) the rights, privileges, or immunities se-
25 cured by the Constitution and laws were not clearly

1 established at the time of their deprivation by the
2 defendant, or that at such time, the state of the law
3 was otherwise such that the defendant could not rea-
4 sonably have been expected to know whether his or
5 her conduct was lawful.”.