

New Indiana Law Allows Citizens to Shoot Police Officers

By Michael Allen, Tue, June 12, 2012

In Indiana, police officers are upset over a new law allowing residents to use deadly force against public servants, including law enforcement officers, who unlawfully enter their homes.

The law was signed by Republican Governor Mitch Daniels in March, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The law was adopted after the Indiana State Supreme Court ruled that there was "no right to reasonably resist unlawful entry by police officers," after a man assaulted an officer during a domestic violence call.

The law's author, Republican state Sen. Michael Young, said there haven't been any cases [yet] in which people have used the law to justify shooting police.

The National Rifle Association lobbied for the new law, claiming that the Indiana State Supreme Court decision had legalized police to commit unjustified entries.

Tim Downs, President of the Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police, told *Bloomberg News* that the law could open the way for people who are under the influence or emotionally distressed to attack officers in their homes: "It's just a recipe for disaster. It just puts a bounty on our heads."

Indiana is the first U.S. state to specifically allow force against officers, according to the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in Washington, which represents prosecutors.



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