



Anti-Monitoring Laws

**Breaking down new anti-protest
state laws that criminalize
approaching and observing police**

These educational materials do not constitute legal advice. Contact a local attorney for additional questions.



Recently, some states have passed laws that criminalize remaining close to police officers.

Indiana

HB 1186

- Misd. to approach “law enforcement” within 25 ft after they have ordered the person to stop approaching.
- Passed in 2023

Louisiana

HB 173

- Misd. to approach “peace officers” within 25 ft after they have ordered the person to stop approaching or retreat.
- Begins 8/1/24

Florida

SB 184

- Misd. to approach “first responders” within 14 ft after being warned to not approach.
- Requires intent to disrupt, threaten, or harass.
- Begins 10/1/24

Key: Distance and notice requirements

Although these repressive laws might be found unconstitutional, law enforcement may use them while they are still on the books.

Remember:

- They require a specific distance: 25 feet (about 5 park benches)
- They MUST provide sufficient notice to stop approaching and/or retreat

Understanding your risks can help keep you safe!

How will these “anti-monitoring laws” impact Legal Observers (LOs)?

LOs are bound by the same laws as any other organizer or protestor, but consider:

- The **right to document government behavior** is constitutionally protected.
- These laws operate similar to trespass: **They require notice BEFORE arrest.**
- Be mindful: local law enforcement agencies may operate differently in practice!



These “anti-monitoring laws” are a new tool being used by the State to repress political dissent!

They follow the trend of relatively new
laws being used to criminalize protest
& mutual aid:

- Anti-masking laws
- Laws outlawing bail funds
- “Domestic Terrorism” laws

We reject these fear tactics!

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