

**Subject** Amending domestic abuse provisions

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## Overview

This bill makes changes to domestic violence laws. It requires law enforcement agencies to report certain information related to domestic violence incidents, amends the definition of “domestic abuse” for purposes of harassment restraining orders, amends the definition of “domestic abuse case” for purposes of policies and procedures used by prosecuting agencies, removes the limitation on when certain arrests for nonfelony domestic abuse offenses can take place, requires a person arrested for certain domestic abuse offenses be held in custody until the person’s first court appearance, creates a task force to recommend policies and procedures related to investigating and prosecuting domestic violence cases, and appropriates money for the task force.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Reporting</b> Amends the reporting requirement for the independent Use of Force Investigations Unit in the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to require information about the number of incidents that began with a law enforcement response to suspected or alleged domestic abuse.
2	<b>Definitions.</b> Amends the definition of “domestic abuse” as used in the section of law related to orders for protection. Incorporates conduct that qualifies as criminal harassment into the definition. Also includes actions that involve coercive control of a victim.
3	<b>Definitions.</b> Amends the definition of “domestic abuse case” in the statute that requires prosecutors to establish plans and procedures for handling domestic abuse cases. The amendment adds harassment and stalking committed against a family or household member, a violation of a harassment restraining order committed against

Section	Description
	a family or household member, and a violation of a domestic abuse no contact order to the list of cases that qualify as domestic abuse cases.
4	<b>Domestic abuse reporting.</b> Requires the head of a law enforcement agency to report to the Department of Public Safety on incidents that a responding peace officer believes involved domestic violence. Requires that the report include specific information about each incident, including the date, time, and location of the incident; whether the officer arrested a person; whether the alleged offender possessed a firearm at the time of the offense; and whether the incident was referred for prosecution. Requires the commissioner of public safety to summarize and analyze the information from the agencies and submit a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over public safety.
5	<b>Arrest.</b> Removes the limitation that an officer can only make an arrest for an alleged nonfelony domestic abuse offense that occurred outside the presence of the law enforcement officer if the arrest takes place within 72 hours. Under current law, officers cannot make an arrest for a nonfelony offense that occurs outside of the officer's presence unless a statute grants specific authority. This statute currently allows for an arrest, but only within 72 hours of the incident.
6	<b>Detention in lieu of citation; arrest.</b> Requires that a person arrested for certain domestic abuse offenses be held in custody until the person's first court appearance. Under current law, the officer in charge of the police station or jail must issue a citation to the alleged offender and release that person unless it appears that the alleged offender poses a threat to the alleged victim, poses a threat to public safety, or is unlikely to appear at a subsequent proceeding. The requirement that a person be held in custody is similar to the requirement for certain DWI offenses under section 169A.40, subdivision 3.
7	<b>Notice; release of arrested person.</b> Makes a conforming change related to the requirement that a person arrested for certain domestic abuse offenses be held in custody until the person's first court appearance.
8	<b>Task force on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence Crimes.</b> Establishes a Task Force on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence Crimes to review current responses to those offenses and make policy and funding recommendations. Establishes that the commissioner of public safety must invite representatives from law enforcement, prosecution offices, the Board of Public Defense, Tribal governments, the Office for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, the Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls, and other

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|    | interested parties to participate in the task force. Establishes that the first responsibility for the task force is to develop a model policy on the use of lethality assessments by peace officers. Establishes other duties for the task force including reviewing current practices, identifying barriers to investigating and prosecuting domestic violence offenses, and making recommendations for policy changes and funding levels. Requires the task force to submit reports. |
| 9  | <b>Task Force on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence Crimes; appropriation.</b><br>Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the Task Force on Improving Responses to Domestic Violence Crimes. Establishes that the base for the appropriation is \$0 beginning in fiscal year 2028.   |
| 10 | <b>Repealer.</b><br>Repeals section 629.72, subdivision 3. This is a conforming change related to the requirement that a person arrested for certain domestic abuse offenses be held in custody until the person's first court appearance.  |



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