



OFFICE OF

No. SB 854

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 24, 2013

TIME SIGNED: 3:50 pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FOURTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 854:

This to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 854.

Current law requires a police officer contesting his termination to first pursue administrative remedies under the Collective Bargaining Agreement. This Agreement is negotiated by both the municipal employer and the union representing police officers and governs disciplinary proceedings for police officers. If either party is dissatisfied with an arbitrator's ruling during the arbitration process, the decision can be appealed to the district court.

Senate Bill 854 would bar police officers terminated for using "excessive force" on the job from utilizing the arbitration process and requires them to go directly to district court where a jury trial would likely occur.

This legislation may create more costly litigation for municipalities and eliminate due process protections currently in place for law enforcement officers. While I am against police brutality in any form, this legislation does not resolve that issue. Instead, it merely strips essential due process protections away from important public servants who ensure our safety.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

RECEIVED

AUG 26 2013

**OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE**

4:25 pm

SM

D. North

4/24/13

5:28 pm