



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Alyssa Bethel

H.B. 407

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Local Government)

Reps. Boyce and Grossman, Antonio, Ashford, Boyd, Celebrezze, Cera, Craig, Curtin, DeVitis, Driehaus, Hackett, Hambley, Howse, Kuhns, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, M. O'Brien, Patterson, Phillips, Ramos, Reece, Rogers, Sheehy, Slesnick, K. Smith, Strahorn, Stinziano, Sykes

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires any law enforcement agency that makes use of body cameras to adopt a written policy regarding the use of body cameras by its law enforcement officers.
- Requires a law enforcement agency to include in its body camera policy specific information.
- Requires the chief officer of a law enforcement agency to formally advise each law enforcement officer the agency employs of its body camera policy.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Law enforcement agency must adopt body camera policy

The bill requires any law enforcement agency that makes use of body cameras to adopt a written policy regarding the use of body cameras by its law enforcement officers. The body camera policy must address the following:

- The officers who are required to wear body cameras;
- Activities during which operation of the body camera is mandatory, optional, or prohibited;
- Standard procedures for obtaining consent to operate the body camera when entering private residences and exceptions to the consent requirement for circumstances in which obtaining consent would be impracticable;

- Standard procedures for reviewing citizen complaints and conducting internal investigations, specifying circumstances in which body camera footage must be reviewed;
- Standard procedures for responding to public record requested for body camera footage;
- Record retention requirements, including the length of time body camera footage must be retained and the method of storing that footage;
- The officials within the agency who have authority to access records of body camera footage;
- The officials within the agency who may edit body camera footage and the circumstances in which editing is permissible;
- Sanctions for an officer who fails to comply with any provision in the agency's body camera policy; and
- Frequency of the agency's review of technology advances and best practices in the field for use of body cameras.

The bill requires the chief officer of an agency to formally advise each officer the agency employs of its body camera policy. And, an agency must make its body camera policy available and readily accessible to the public.

An agency that makes use of body cameras when the bill takes effect must adopt a body camera policy not later than six months after the bill's effective date. An agency that begins making use of body cameras after the bill's effective date must adopt a body camera policy not later than six months after the use begins.

As used under the bill, "law enforcement agency" means the State Highway Patrol, a municipal police department, a county sheriff's office, a police department of a township or a joint police district, or a state university police department.¹

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced
Reported, H. Local Gov't
H0407-RH-131.docx/ks

12-07-15
05-24-16

¹ R.C. 2935.034.

