

# SENATE BILL 31

P3, E4  
SB 690/21 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0542

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By: **Senator Sydnor**

Requested: September 23, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Information Act – Inspection of Records From Body-Worn Digital**  
3 **Recording Devices**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing certain requirements for a custodian of records related to  
5 certain recordings from a certain body-worn digital recording device worn by a law  
6 enforcement officer; requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards  
7 Commission to develop certain uniform standards and policies in consultation with  
8 certain groups; and generally relating to the inspection of recordings from body-worn  
9 digital recording devices worn by law enforcement officers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – General Provisions  
12 Section 4-101  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – General Provisions  
17 Section 4-357  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – General Provisions**

23 4-101.

24 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) "Applicant" means a person or governmental unit that asks to inspect a public  
2 record.

3 (c) "Board" means the State Public Information Act Compliance Board.

4 **(D) "BODY-WORN DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED**  
5 **IN § 10-402 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.**

6 **[(d)] (E)** "Custodian" means:

7 (1) the official custodian; or

8 (2) any other authorized individual who has physical custody and control  
9 of a public record.

10 **[(e)] (F)** "News media" means:

11 (1) newspapers;

12 (2) magazines;

13 (3) journals;

14 (4) press associations;

15 (5) news agencies;

16 (6) wire services;

17 (7) radio;

18 (8) television; and

19 (9) any printed, photographic, mechanical, or electronic means of  
20 disseminating news and information to the public.

21 **[(f)] (G)** "Official custodian" means an officer or employee of the State or of a  
22 political subdivision who is responsible for keeping a public record, whether or not the  
23 officer or employee has physical custody and control of the public record.

24 **[(g)] (H)** "Person in interest" means:

25 (1) a person or governmental unit that is the subject of a public record or a  
26 designee of the person or governmental unit;



1 (4) a school district; or

2 (5) a special district.

3 **[(k)] (L)** (1) “Public record” means the original or any copy of any  
4 documentary material that:

5 (i) is made by a unit or an instrumentality of the State or of a  
6 political subdivision or received by the unit or instrumentality in connection with the  
7 transaction of public business; and

8 (ii) is in any form, including:

9 1. a card;

10 2. a computerized record;

11 3. correspondence;

12 4. a drawing;

13 5. film or microfilm;

14 6. a form;

15 7. a map;

16 8. a photograph or photostat;

17 9. a recording; or

18 10. a tape.

19 (2) “Public record” includes a document that lists the salary of an employee  
20 of a unit or an instrumentality of the State or of a political subdivision.

21 (3) “Public record” does not include a digital photographic image or  
22 signature of an individual, or the actual stored data of the image or signature, recorded by  
23 the Motor Vehicle Administration.

24 **[(l)] (M)** “Technical infraction” means a minor rule violation by an individual  
25 solely related to the enforcement of administrative rules that:

26 (1) does not involve an interaction between a member of the public and the  
27 individual;

1 (2) does not relate to the individual's investigative, enforcement, training,  
2 supervision, or reporting responsibilities; and

3 (3) is not otherwise a matter of public concern.

4 **4-357.**

5 (A) (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PUBLIC RECORD THAT HAS  
6 BEEN ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE IN A COURT PROCEEDING.

7 (2) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT THE  
8 DISCOVERY OR EVIDENTIARY RIGHTS OF A PARTY TO A CIVIL SUIT OR CRIMINAL  
9 PROSECUTION.

10 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A  
11 CUSTODIAN SHALL DENY INSPECTION OF THAT PART OF A RECORDING FROM A  
12 BODY-WORN DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICE REGARDING AN INCIDENT THAT:

13 (I) DEPICTS A VICTIM OR INFORMATION THAT COULD IDENTIFY  
14 A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN § 4-701 OF THE FAMILY LAW  
15 ARTICLE;

16 (II) DEPICTS A VICTIM OR INFORMATION THAT COULD IDENTIFY  
17 A VICTIM OF A VIOLATION OF TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

18 (III) DEPICTS A VICTIM OR INFORMATION THAT COULD IDENTIFY  
19 A VICTIM OF, EXCEPT FOR A VIOLATION OF § 3-607 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE  
20 WHERE THE VICTIM IS AN ADULT, A VIOLATION OF TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE  
21 CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

22 (IV) DEPICTS THE DEATH OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
23 THAT OCCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OFFICER'S DUTIES; OR

24 (V) DOES NOT RESULT IN:

25 1. THE ARREST, ATTEMPTED ARREST, TEMPORARY  
26 DETENTION, ATTEMPTED TEMPORARY DETENTION, SEARCH, ATTEMPTED SEARCH,  
27 CITATION, DEATH, OR INJURY OF AN INDIVIDUAL;

28 2. THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL; OR

29 3. A COMPLAINT OR AN ALLEGATION OF OFFICER  
30 MISCONDUCT MADE AGAINST ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVOLVED IN THE  
31 INCIDENT.

1           **(2) A CUSTODIAN SHALL DENY INSPECTION OF RECORDS AS**  
2 **REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION REGARDLESS OF A SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN BY**  
3 **LAW ENFORCEMENT OR A COURT RESULTING FROM THE INCIDENT RECORDED.**

4           **(3) (I) A VICTIM WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A RECORD SHALL BE**  
5 **NOTIFIED OF ALL REQUESTS TO INSPECT THE RECORD.**

6           **(II) THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS**  
7 **COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF**  
8 **COUNTIES, THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES,**  
9 **THE NEWS MEDIA, VICTIMS' RIGHTS ADVOCATES, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS,**  
10 **SHALL DEVELOP UNIFORM STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES TO CARRY OUT THE**  
11 **PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

12           **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A CUSTODIAN**  
13 **SHALL ALLOW INSPECTION OF A RECORDING FROM A BODY-WORN DIGITAL**  
14 **RECORDING DEVICE BY:**

15           **(I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A SUBJECT IN THE RECORDING AND**  
16 **IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT THAT PROMPTED THE RECORDING;**

17           **(II) IF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
18 **PARAGRAPH IS A MINOR, THE INDIVIDUAL'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN;**

19           **(III) IF THE INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
20 **PARAGRAPH IS DECEASED OR UNABLE TO REQUEST THE RECORDING DUE TO**  
21 **INJURY, THE INDIVIDUAL'S PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, SPOUSE, ADULT CHILD, OR**  
22 **NEXT OF KIN, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ESTATE; OR**

23           **(IV) IF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
24 **PARAGRAPH IS AN INCAPACITATED PERSON, AS DEFINED IN § 13.5-101 OF THE**  
25 **ESTATES AND TRUSTS ARTICLE, THE INDIVIDUAL'S GUARDIAN OR AGENT.**

26           **(2) A CUSTODIAN MAY NOT ALLOW INSPECTION OR COPYING OF A**  
27 **RECORDING FROM A BODY-WORN DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICE BY AN INDIVIDUAL**  
28 **WHO IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR OR IS CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION DESCRIBED**  
29 **IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IF THE RECORDING IS OF THE INCIDENT**  
30 **LEADING TO THE INVESTIGATION OR CHARGE.**

31           **(3) A CUSTODIAN MAY NOT ALLOW COPYING OF A RECORDING FROM**  
32 **A BODY-WORN DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS RECEIVED**  
33 **PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT FOR, IS SUBJECT TO A PEACE OR PROTECTIVE**  
34 **ORDER AS A RESULT OF, HAS PLEADED NOLO CONTENDERE TO, HAS PLEADED**  
35 **GUILTY TO, OR HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF A VIOLATION DESCRIBED IN**

1 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IF THE RECORDING IS OF THE INCIDENT LEADING**  
2 **TO THE PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT, ORDER, PLEA, OR VERDICT.**

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2022.