



CLYDE BOATWRIGHT  
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT  
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH  
TREASURER

February 15, 2021

**Senate Bill 583-Law Enforcement-Body Worn Cameras-Capabilities**

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Distinguished Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 583 **Law Enforcement-Body Worn Cameras-Capabilities**.

Currently as it stands, body worn cameras buffer and upon activation, add to any recording, 30 seconds of audio and video footage. An officer will usually activate the BWC prior to any confrontation; However, upon the incident that is instantaneous, and requires activation after the interaction has begun, that 30 second buffer is more than enough time to capture any information that is needed to see what might have started the interaction prior to activation. A 2 minute buffer time would be extremely long period of time and could also infringe on an officers privacy. For example, for many officers the bathroom is located in a position that within 2 minutes they could be outside of the station or in a holding cell. If a confrontation occurs before 2 minutes from the time the officer left the bathroom the officer will then have recorded private moments captured and on the record. For Officers, their vehicles are their office. A conversation on the phone with family or other private matters, or in person private conversations with other officers could occur. If less than 2 minutes passes before an officer has to activate their BWC, those private conversations will now be a permanent part of that recording an infringe on the privacy rights of that officer.

Additionally, the mandate that will be put in place if this bill were to pass would increase substantially the costs incurred with maintaining the storage for the extra 90 second buffer. This new buffer would be 3 times the current 30 seconds. There are already very significant costs associated with storing the hundreds of thousands to millions of police interactions that many agencies will have to store. To increase the storage by an additional 90 second buffer would make that cost increase exponentially and become cost prohibitive for many if not all agencies.

The current process of capturing a 30 second buffer prior to the activation has been extremely successful. There has been no information provided that allowing a two-minute buffer prior to activation will increase reports of police negatively interacting with citizens. For these reasons, the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 583 **Law Enforcement-Body Worn Cameras-Capabilities** and we respectfully ask for an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Angelo L. Consoli Jr.,

Second Vice President – FOP, Maryland State Lodge  
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County