



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 583**

TITLE: Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras – Capabilities

SPONSOR: Senator Hettleman

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 17, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 583 – Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras – Capabilities. This legislation would require that a body-worn camera automatically record and save two minutes of audio and video footage prior to the officer activating the device.

County Executive Olszewski highly values body-worn cameras as an effective means of gathering data when investigating the circumstances of an incident. As such, the Baltimore County Police Department currently follows this procedures prescribed by SB 583. Local governments, civilians, and law enforcement officers across the State support the use of body-worn cameras because they can provide context and an outline of events if an encounter is called into question.

Baltimore County strives to promote transparency and accountability throughout local government. Direct footage of interactions between law enforcement and civilians contributes invaluable evidence for a variety of investigations which hold the responsible parties accountable and keep the public informed. By providing a mechanism that automatically saves footage from the 2 minutes prior to activation, SB 583 ensures that matters under review are given proper context.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 583. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.