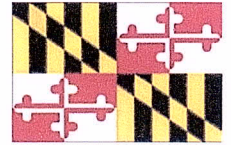




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
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KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

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TREASURER

February 10, 2021

House Bill 727-Law Enforcement-Body Worn Cameras-Capabilities

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chairperson Atterbeary, and Distinguished Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **OPPOSES** House Bill 727 **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 capture 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 and if a confrontation occurs before 2 minutes from the time the officer left the bathroom the officer will have recorded private moments. Furthermore, the technology does not exist to allow a body worn camera to be able to capture audio and video recording for a two-minute buffer period prior to the activation of a body worn camera; nor does it appear that the technology would be developed to be able to accomplish a two-minute buffer recording.

Additionally, the costs incurred with maintaining the storage for the 30 second buffer in addition to the costs associated with storing the hundreds of thousands of police interactions are extensive. To increase the storage by an additional 90 second buffer in addition to the hundreds of thousands of police interactions would make that cost exorbitant and exhaustive of many budgets set aside to accomplish what is required to the storage, maintenance and recording of body worn cameras.

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** House Bill 727 **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