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February 23, 2022

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Dana Mulhauser
Chief, Independent Investigations Division
Office of the Attorney General

Re: SB 556 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Body-Worn Cameras – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report SB 556. If passed, the bill would expand the state's body-worn-camera requirement to cover entities other than counties. Under current state law, counties are required to have body-worn cameras but other law-enforcement entities in the state are not. There is no practical reason for this distinction, and we support extending the body-worn camera requirement to other law-enforcement agencies.

Body-worn cameras are crucial to the investigation of officer-involved fatalities and other uses of force. Studies have found that they reduce officer use of force, allow for faster and more accurate resolution of investigations, save money by reducing the costs associated with citizen complaints, and are supported by most officers themselves. *See e.g.* Braga, et al. "The Benefits of Body-Worn Cameras: New Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department." Final report to the Nat'l Institute of Justice, 2013-IJ-CX-0016, September 2017 ("BWC-wearing officers generated significantly fewer complaints and use of force reports relative to control officers without cameras. . . In addition, our cost-benefit analysis revealed that savings from reduced complaints against officers, and the reduced time required to resolve such complaints, resulted in substantial cost savings for the police department."); Miller et al. 2014. *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned*. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of Senate Bill 556.

cc: Committee Members