



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TESTIMONY

March 1, 2022

**Committee:** House Judiciary

**Bill:** HB 1207 - Public Safety - Body-Worn Cameras - Costs and Expenses

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1207, which stipulates that the State will cover the costs and expenses associated with police body worn cameras.

Broader use of police body cameras promotes transparency in public safety and about 40 out of the 88 municipal police agencies have them already implemented on their officers to some degree. The cost assistance included in this bill will allow for local agencies to expand their use of body worn cameras on their officers in a fashion that keeps their budgets to remain relatively intact to be used for other important public safety purposes.

There is enormous fiscal impact to police agencies associated with body worn cameras including acquisition of the cameras and equipment, ongoing maintenance of the devices, storage of the footage, and review and redaction for Public Information Act requests. This financial burden to municipal police agencies, particularly the smaller ones, is immense without some degree of State subsidy.

The provisions in HB 1207 provide funding assistance to police agencies that will facilitate Statewide use of body worn cameras. For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide House Bill 1207 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | [www.md-municipal.org](http://www.md-municipal.org)