

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-7071

March 1, 2022

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

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

Re: HB 591– Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Body-Worn Cameras – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB 591. 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.* Anthony Braga, Ph.D., et al., *The Benefits of Body-Worn Cameras: new findings from a randomized controlled trial at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, at i (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.”); *see also* Lindsay Miller et al., *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned*, U.S. D.O.J. Community Office Policing Services (2014).

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of House Bill 591.

cc: Committee Members