



Senate Bill 330

Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body-Worn Cameras
(Body-Worn Camera Appropriation and Financing Act of 2023)

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: March 30, 2023

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 330. This bill would enable counties with the option to access necessary provisions for implementing a body-worn camera program via contracts negotiated by the Department of General Services, in coordination with the Department of Information Technology, on behalf of state and local law enforcement agencies.

Giving counties the ability to take part in contracts that are negotiated at the state level avoids a mass duplication of effort or the potential for individual counties to incur the kind of premiums that often accompany single-user contracts. Additionally, under this legislation, counties who have taken the initiative to get their body-worn camera programs up and running would reserve the flexibility to carry on with their own provisions, or to evaluate the central offerings as warranted.

The forthcoming mandate that each county law enforcement officer be equipped with a body-worn camera carries a significant expense, both for the equipment and secure storage of the resulting footage. The infrastructure involved in this process is extensive. Beyond the cameras, these programs require storage capacity for millions of hours of video footage, software for the review and redaction of footage as necessary, and cybersecurity provisions to protect this particularly sensitive material. The staff to manage these programs includes attorneys, record custodians, and information technology specialists, as well as collaboration with law enforcement officers.

A simplified process for both local law enforcement agencies and procurement officials in the Department of General Services will streamline county adoption of the approaching mandate. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 330.