

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0330.pdf

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Position: FAV



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BILL NO.: **SB 330**

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

SPONSOR: **Senator Ready**

COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 13, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 330 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body-Worn Cameras (Body-Worn Camera Appropriation and Financing Act of 2023). This legislation would synchronize local and state efforts to procure and use body-worn cameras, and establish a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing a uniform storage and access system for body-worn camera footage.

Body-worn cameras are critical to fostering faith and trust in law enforcement officers who encounter difficult and dangerous situations each and every day. This is why Baltimore County has championed requiring the use of body-worn cameras for officers in the field. Before the State passed landmark police reform legislation in 2021, Baltimore County had procured the necessary equipment and began to evaluate the costs of implementation of the program. It became clear that the long-term expense of storing thousands of hours of footage would dwarf the cost of procuring the cameras themselves.

SB 330 establishes a cost and feasibility study of a statewide storage and access system for body-worn camera data. This bill would also allow the Department of General Services to negotiate contracts to acquire body-worn cameras and equipment upfront. By allowing the County to leverage DGS resources to secure more favorable contracts, SB 330 provides pathways for local governments to more efficiently implement these critical transparency measures. The findings of the study conducted by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission will also have the potential to make accessing body worn camera data more uniform statewide, furthering accessibility to data which is vital to the public interest.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 330. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB330BodyWornCamerasTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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**SB 330–Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras
(Body–Worn Camera Appropriation and Financing Act of 2023)**

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am here today to introduce Senate Bill 330, the Body Worn Camera Appropriation and Financing Act of 2023. This bill is a continuation of work from the Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera Taskforce which I was proud to serve on as Senate designee, and I thank President Ferguson for the appointment. The goal was to establish cost-efficient ways to scale the use and acquisition of body-worn cameras. Access to body-worn cameras will provide increased accountability in law enforcement, provide transparency and police oversight, and most of all increase trust and strengthen police-civilian relationships.

Police agencies and law enforcement personnel from around the state have told us they want to have this important tool to ensure transparency, help identify bad actors and serve as an invaluable training tool. The only issue that could delay full implementation is how to pay for it. That's why I've sponsored SB 330. It's a common sense, bipartisan bill that will ensure that body camera systems are affordable and accessible for all our local law enforcement agencies.

SB 330 will allow for state-wide negotiation of body camera contracts, acquisition of devices, and storage for BWC's, which will help eliminate the significant financial barriers that many law enforcement agencies encounter when attempting to implement a BWC program. This is a problem especially true for Maryland's smaller or mid-sized agencies. This approach will streamline the resources necessary for a successful BWC program and will offer a standardized state-wide system that reflects the needs of law enforcement and promises transparency while integrating those BWC programs that already exist in the state.

The costs for body-worn cameras can fall between \$1,791 and \$3,788 per officer/ camera and when you are an agency with a handful of officers, your budget may not be able to bear such a cost. That's why the state needs to step in and help these agencies cover the expense of these cameras they are mandated to have.

I want to thank the stakeholders on this task force, from law enforcement, community organizations, and civil liberty advocates who have been working with us for years to get this done right and are continuing to work with us on friendly amendments which will be provided to the committee once we receive them from the amendment office.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 330.

SB0330-JPR_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 330

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 14, 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 on behalf of state and local law enforcement agencies. Clarifying amendments could smooth the procurement process for a more readily manageable multi-party offering.

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 cyber-security provisions to protect this particularly sensitive material. The staff to manage these programs includes attorneys, record custodians, information technology specialists as well as collaboration with law enforcement officers.

While this legislation is an important step in the direction of partnership, counties would like to ensure the process is streamlined for all involved. MACo believes the following amendments would bring more clarity to the process for counties to opt-in to the state provisions.

On page 2, line 18 strike “AT THE REQUEST OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,”

On page 2, line 20, after “CONTRACTS” insert “FOR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AS WELL AS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OPTING TO USE THEIR PROVISIONS,”

On page 2, line 26, after the period insert “(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL INFORM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE AVAILABLE PROVISIONS”

These clarifying amendments would simplify the process for both local law enforcement agencies and procurement officials in the Department of General Services, while establishing a manageable and collaborative process for navigating this approaching county mandate. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 330, and also encourages the Committee to consider clarifying amendments.

MCPA-MSA_SB 330 Body-Worn Cameras_Support with Ame

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FWA



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 14, 2023

RE: **SB 330 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Body-Worn Cameras**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 330 WITH AMENDMENTS. This bill would assist law enforcement agencies with the procurement of body-worn cameras and provide for a study of the cost and feasibility of implementing a statewide uniform storage and access system for the body-worn camera data of all law enforcement agencies,

MCPA and MSA appreciate the ongoing support of the sponsor to assist with funding and offer approaches to bring down the costs associated with implementing and maintaining a body-worn camera program. Body-worn cameras are a critical tool for law enforcement officers throughout Maryland. However, many of these agencies that are attempting to procure Body Worn Cameras are struggling with the prohibitive costs. With the hopeful passage of SB 330, law enforcement agencies will have the opportunity to obtain these tools and ensure proper transparency.

MCPA and MSA have been working closely with the Maryland Association of Counties on this bill as Centralized Resources for Body Cameras is one of MACo's legislative initiatives. Working with MACo, MCPA and MSA would like to offer the following amendments to further streamline the process of purchasing body cameras by allowing law enforcement agencies to piggy-back or opt-in to the provisions of a contract in place by the state Department of General Services.

Amendments

On page 2, line 19 remove “**AT THE REQUEST OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,**”

On page 2, line 21, after the word “**CONTRACTS**” add “**FOR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AS WELL AS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OPTING TO USE THEIR PROVISIONS,**”

On page 2, line 27, after the period add “**(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL INFORM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE AVAILABLE PROVISIONS**”

Again, MPCA and MSA would like to thank the sponsor for his past and continued work on this issue and respectfully request a FAVORABLE Committee report on SB 330 with the described amendments.