



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

TESTIMONY

February 7, 2023

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: HB 332 - Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Body–Worn Cameras (Body–Worn Camera Appropriation and Financing Act of 2023)

Position: Support with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 332 with amendment, to allow municipal police agencies to join a State procurement for body worn camera equipment. With the proposed amendment below, we expect the costs to purchase body worn cameras and ancillary equipment to decrease as municipal police agencies can leverage a larger purchase order into lower costs for all involved.

With the proposed amendment the State would issue a notice when it plans to go through the procurement process for body worn cameras or related equipment and allow municipal agencies to add onto the procurement. By doing so, a small agency will be able to benefit from the economies of scale of a large purchase order that they could never achieve on their own. This alone will help reduce costs for those municipal agencies that choose to partake, in some cases significantly.

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 ALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE AVAILABLE PROVISIONS**”

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org

There are 89 municipal police agencies in Maryland of which about 60 already outfit at least some of their officers with body worn cameras. While the use of body worn cameras is an encouraging trend as they provide accountability and transparency for both the actions of police officers but also members of the public who interact with law enforcement, the cameras come with a large cost. Many municipal agencies are small and have a limited budget but with some assistance from the State they too could join the movement towards more officers wearing body worn cameras.

This bill with the proposed amendment provides some potential cost savings to local agencies as they work towards outfitting more officers with body worn cameras. As such, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide a favorable report on House Bill 332 with the above amendment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns	Chief Executive Officer
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.	Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Bill Jorch	Director, Public Policy
Justin Fiore	Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs