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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: **Judiciary**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 30, 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.