

- Good afternoon Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1046.
- As you know, in order for the Department to deploy body cameras outside of its facilities, there must be a change in statute.
- This bill is on their behalf.

Purpose

- Senate Bill 1046 is a very simple bill that authorizes correctional officers who are working **OUTSIDE** of a correctional facility and are interfacing with the public, to use body worn cameras.

***Example – parole and probation agents, correctional officers conducting transports, etc.**

***Correctional Officer defined under Correctional Services Article 8-201**

Background

- Correctional officers working outside of the facility or campus grounds do not currently have statutory authority to use body worn cameras.

Emergency Legislation

- The current FY26 budget proposed for DPSCS contains \$428,000 that is contingent on approved legislation that gives the Department authorization to use body worn cameras.

Mirrors Existing Statute

- The bill was drafted to mirror existing language already in statute under Public Safety Article 3-511, so this bill does not reinvent the wheel and is consistent with current statute.

Policy

- Additionally, the bill requires the Correctional Training Commission to develop the policy for the training, issuance, and use of body-worn cameras.
- With the Police Training and Standards Commission housed under the same roof as the Correctional Training Commission, the experts who developed policy for body worn cameras for law enforcement, they will be there to assist the Correctional Training Commission if needed.

Conclusion

- This is another tool in the tool box for the Department to enhance the safety of its correctional officers.
- I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 1046.
- I am happy to answer any questions you may have.