

# **HB 748 - CF - MML - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey Thupari

Position: FAV



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

## TESTIMONY

March 25, 2025

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Bill:** HB 748 - Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras

**Position:** Favorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (“MML”) supports House Bill 748, which authorizes a municipality to adopt an ordinance or a resolution authorizing an official who is authorized to act as an enforcement officer to use a body-worn camera (“BWC”) during the course of the official’s duties.

Officials who are authorized to act as an enforcement officer could include municipal employees like Code Enforcement Officers, who interact with the public in non-criminal but potentially emotionally charged situations. BWCs can act as a deterrent to aggressive or confrontational behavior from members of the public, knowing their actions are being recorded. In potentially dangerous situations, having a camera may help de-escalate tense encounters, as people may behave more civilly when aware they are being filmed. The footage can also serve as a tool for investigating incidents in which officers feel threatened or are involved in critical situations, providing a clearer understanding of the circumstances. We see this bill as an enabling tool to protect our hard-working and potentially vulnerable employees.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 748 with a favorable report. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at [angelicab@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:angelicab@mdmunicipal.org) or (443) 756-0071. Thank you for your consideration.

*The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.*

# **HB748-JPR-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 748**

March 25, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** HB 748 - Municipalities – Enforcement Officers – Body–Worn Cameras

**POSITION:** **Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that my Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 748.

HB 748 would add municipal enforcement officers to the definition of law enforcement officers for the purpose of allowing these enforcement officers to use body–worn camera during the course of the officers' duties.

Baltimore City has three types of enforcement officers who perform various duties throughout the city that put them in direct contact with residents in situations that can sometimes lead to negative interactions. These officers conduct traffic enforcement for large scale events alongside sworn officers where tens of thousands of individuals are entering or leaving venues; parking enforcement including overnight enforcement; animal control where pet owners may become aggressive toward those officers; and other enforcement officers who conduct enforcement for various types of housing violations.

The Baltimore City municipal workforce is comprised largely of people of color. This fact holds true for special officers, parking officers, and traffic officers, the majority of whom are women of color. The assault of these critical workers poses a substantial challenge to recruitment and staff morale, which in turn hurts the level of service the City can provide to residents. Parking officers are particularly prone to confrontation and conflict due to the controversial nature of their work—no one is happy to receive a parking ticket. Parking officers are required to disengage when disputes arise, but this does not ensure the safety of officers.

By providing municipal enforcement officers the ability to have body-worn cameras, we can help to ensure their safety in performing their duties.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 748.