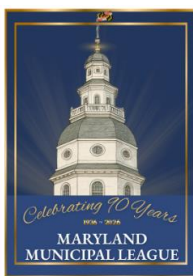


HB 172 CF - FAV - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey Thupari

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings

DATE: March 31, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: House Bill 172

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 172, 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 172 with a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:
Angelica Bailey Thupari: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, angelicab@mdmunicipal.org

MML represents 88 municipal police departments and roughly 4,000 officers.

HB172 Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body

Uploaded by: Matthew Schindler

Position: FAV

MATTHEW J. SCHINDLER
Legislative District 2B
Washington County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Ethics
Labor

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies
and Administration

House Study Group on Economic Stability



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3125
800-492-7122 Ext. 3125
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB172: Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras
Judicial Proceedings
March 31st, 2026: 1:00PM**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and honorable members of the committee, for the record, I am Delegate Matthew Schindler, and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 172.

HB172 is an enabling legislation, simply allowing municipalities to authorize code enforcement officers to wear body cameras if they choose. This legislation would allow municipalities to enhance transparency and ensure that enforcement officers and constituents are able to access a record of their encounters.

In my previous experience as a member of the Hagerstown city council I witnessed many complaints or issues regarding code enforcement that could have been readily resolved if there was a digital record of the enforcement encounter.

I believe this legislation will create a tool that can boost government trust, efficiency, and transparency. Body worn cameras also act as a deterrent toward potential aggressive or confrontational interactions, providing safety for both our officers and citizens. This bill carries no fiscal note and merely gives local jurisdictions another tool in their tool kit.

With that, I thank you all for your time, and I respectfully urge the committee for a **favorable report** on HB172.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Schindler

Delegate Matthew J. Schindler
District 2B

HB0172-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

HB 172

March 31, 2026

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: House Bill (HB) 172 - Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 172.

HB 172 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.

Due to the nature of the work of our special enforcement officers, the potential for 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 enforcement 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 enforcement 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. Additionally, as this legislation does not mandate that all municipalities implement this law, it merely provides an additional option for cities wishing to provide this resource for their officers. For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 172.

HB0172 - crossover bill - FAV - Law Enforcement Of

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0172 Crossover Bill RichardKaplowitz FAV

03/31/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0172- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0172, Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings

This bill is Maryland's forceful response to the illegal and constitutional actions of DHS and ICE. As reported by U.S. Senators Duckworth and Durbin:

*Duckworth, Durbin Demand ICE and CBP Enforce Body Camera Requirements in Compliance with Federal Order - The Senators' demand follows reports of ICE releasing misleading accounts of recent immigration enforcement operations in Chicagoland*¹

“Regular use of BWCs provides an extra layer of safety for both law enforcement officers and the public they serve and helps to increase trust between the two,” continued the lawmakers. “Such incidents underscore the importance of BWC footage, which plays a vital role in promoting responsible law enforcement tactics and verifying DHS accounts against facts on the ground and, ultimately, is in the best interest of agents, officials and individuals involved in use of force incidents.”

Regular use of BWCs provides an extra layer of safety for both law enforcement officers and the public they serve and helps to increase trust between the two. Despite that, CBP has yet to provide the public or Congress with information about Border Patrol agents' rate of activation of BWCs at other enforcement operations involving U.S. Border Patrol ... incidents underscore the importance of BWC footage, which plays a vital role in promoting responsible law enforcement tactics and verifying DHS accounts against facts on the ground and, ultimately, is in the best interest of agents, officials and individuals involved in use of force incidents.

The failure of ICE agents to activate body-worn cameras (BWCs) creates significant risks, including reduced accountability for alleged civil rights violations, unverified use-of-force incidents, and erosion of public trust. Without footage, investigating misconduct becomes difficult, and oversight of sensitive operations like home raids is diminished.²

¹ <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/news/press-releases/duckworth-durbin-demand-ice-and-cbp-enforce-body-camera-requirements-in-compliance-with-federal-order#:~:text=of%20the%20incident.-,Regular%20use%20of%20BWCs%20provides%20an%20extra%20layer%20of%20safety,in%20use%20of%20force%20in,cidents.>

² Google AI Search “dangers from ICE not having activated body worn cameras”

HB0172_Crossover_Bill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

Maryland can and should combat this disregard of the use of these body-worn cameras by passing this bill including a certain municipal enforcement officer in the definition of "law enforcement officer" for purposes of a certain exception to prohibitions against wiretapping and electronic surveillance relating to the use of body-worn cameras; authorizing a municipality to adopt an ordinance or a resolution authorizing an official who is authorized to act as an enforcement officer to utilize a body-worn camera; and requiring that a certain municipality publish its policy for the issuance and use of body-worn cameras by enforcement officers.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#0172.

Senate_Testimony_HB172.pdf

Uploaded by: SCOTT Nicewarner

Position: FAV



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Scott A. Nicewarner
City Administrator

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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT – HB 172 – Municipalities – Enforcement Officers – Body Worn Cameras**

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Hagerstown to express their strong support for House Bill 172, which advances important policy improvements related to the use of body-worn cameras by municipal enforcement officers. This legislation represents a meaningful step toward strengthening accountability, enhancing public trust, and ensuring transparency in municipal enforcement operations across Maryland.

Body-worn camera programs have demonstrated clear benefits for both officers and the communities they serve. They provide an objective record of interactions, support professional standards of conduct, and help resolve complaints or incidents more efficiently. Expanding and standardizing their use among municipal enforcement officers will promote consistency in enforcement practices while reinforcing confidence that public safety activities are conducted fairly and responsibly.

In addition, the bill supports municipalities by establishing clearer expectations and operational frameworks, helping local governments implement policies that balance transparency, privacy protections, and responsible resource management. These improvements will ultimately benefit residents, officers, and local agencies alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 172 a favorable report and support its passage during the current legislative session. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of Maryland's communities.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Scott A. Nicewarner

City Administrator, City of Hagerstown