



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 513**

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5381

*House of Representatives, April 16, 2024*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF POLICE BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-294s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

3 Each police basic or review training program conducted or  
4 administered by the Division of State Police within the Department of  
5 Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Police Officer Standards  
6 and Training Council established under section 7-294b or a municipal  
7 police department in the state shall include tactical training for police  
8 officers regarding the use of physical force, training in the use of body-  
9 worn recording equipment, including under which circumstances an  
10 officer shall not pause recording on such equipment, and the retention  
11 of data created by such equipment, and cultural competency and  
12 sensitivity and bias-free policing training, including, but not limited to,  
13 implicit bias training. As used in this section, "implicit bias training"  
14 means training on how to recognize and mitigate unconscious biases  
15 against a particular segment of the population that might influence a

16 police officer's judgments and decisions when interacting with a  
17 member of such segment of the population.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (j) of section 29-6d of the 2024 supplement to the  
19 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
20 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

21 (j) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
22 and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall jointly  
23 maintain guidelines pertaining to the use of body-worn recording  
24 equipment and dashboard cameras, including the type of detective  
25 work an officer might engage in that should not be recorded, retention  
26 of data created by such equipment and dashboard cameras and methods  
27 for safe and secure storage of such data. On and after October 1, 2024,  
28 such guidelines shall contain provisions concerning under which  
29 circumstances an officer shall not pause recording on such equipment.  
30 The guidelines shall not require a law enforcement unit to store such  
31 data for a period longer than one year, except in the case where the unit  
32 knows the data is pertinent to any ongoing civil, criminal or  
33 administrative matter. Each law enforcement unit and any police officer  
34 and any other employee of such unit who may have access to such data  
35 shall adhere to such guidelines. The commissioner and council may  
36 update and reissue such guidelines, as the commissioner and council  
37 determine necessary. The commissioner and council shall, upon  
38 issuance of such guidelines or any update to such guidelines, submit  
39 such guidelines in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a to the  
40 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
41 of matters relating to the judiciary and public safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	7-294s
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	29-6d(j)

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities because the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, and municipal police departments have the expertise to (1) update state guidelines on the use of police body cameras to include provisions on the circumstances when officers must not pause recording with such cameras and (2) incorporate such provisions into basic and review training programs.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5381*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF POLICE BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill specifically requires the state’s guidelines on the use of police body cameras, starting October 1, 2024, to include provisions on the circumstances when officers must not pause recording with the cameras. The bill similarly requires these circumstances to be included in police basic and review training programs on body camera use.

By law, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) must jointly maintain body and dashboard camera guidelines, and law enforcement units and police officers must follow them (see BACKGROUND). Police basic and review training programs conducted or administered by the State Police, POST, or municipal police departments must include training on, among other things, using body cameras.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on police training programs takes effect October 1, 2024.

**BACKGROUND*****Law Enforcement Units and Police Officers***

By law, a “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a(8)).

Under the body camera law, a “police officer” is a sworn member of a law enforcement unit or any member of a law enforcement unit who performs police duties (CGS § 29-6d(a)).

**Model Policy**

Under the state’s existing model policy on the use of body cameras and dashboard cameras (last revised in March 2024), police officers generally must (1) activate body cameras while interacting with the public in a law enforcement capacity and (2) keep the cameras activated until the interaction has concluded.

The policy allows officers to deactivate the cameras if they determine that under the circumstances, the investigation could be significantly hampered by continuing to record. Under the policy, whenever possible, officers should consult with supervisors before making the decision to deactivate the cameras.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/28/2024)