

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5381

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF POLICE BODY-WORN RECORDING

Title: EQUIPMENT.

Vote Date: 3/28/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2024

File No.: 513

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Maryam Khan, 5th Dist.

Rep. Travis Simms, 140th Dist.

Rep. Susan M. Johnson, 49th Dist.

Rep. Aundre Bumgardner, 41st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

There exists an inconsistency regarding the policies around when a police officer can pause their body cameras. This bill would require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Police Officer Standards and Training Council or any municipal police department to include training on when a police officer shall not pause the recording on their recording equipment.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Terri Ricks, Smart Justice Leader, Connecticut ACLU: She testified in support of this bill and illustrates the support by giving multiple examples of being antagonized by police but not having a way to prove what happened without body camera and audio. She stated that this bill would require police to review their training programs on how to use body-cameras and

recording equipment and would update their guidelines to state when the police officers should not mute their body cameras. She believes this bill will provide transparency and help establish community trust.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Council, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT): She testified in support of the bill because it would help with police accountability which would help end police violence and racism. She explained that police body and dashboard cameras can act as police oversight tools, but only if there are good policies to accompany them and ensure that the cameras stay turned on. She stated that the bill would require that police take training programs on how to use this body-worn equipment and update when they are not allowed to pause the recording.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Hillary Desideraggio

Date: 3-28-24