
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 113 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, CEPHAS, SANCHEZ, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS,
MADDEN, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, PARKER, FLEMING, FRANKEL AND
SCOTT, MAY 18, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 18, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on how body-worn camera footage can be more effectively
3 used to provide positive and safe outcomes for both law
4 enforcement officers and civilians.

5 WHEREAS, Body-worn cameras have become more widely used by
6 law enforcement officers throughout the United States, including
7 policing and corrections; and

8 WHEREAS, A 2015 survey of 67 major cities and 76 major
9 counties found that 95% of law enforcement agencies had fully
10 operational body-worn camera programs or intended to implement a
11 full body-worn camera program; and

12 WHEREAS, A Bureau of Justice Statistics study found that 47%
13 of general-purpose law enforcement agencies and 80% of large
14 police departments had acquired body-worn cameras as of 2016, of
15 which 60% of local police departments and 49% of sheriffs'
16 offices had fully deployed their body-worn cameras; and

17 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Police began piloting the use
18 of body-worn cameras in 2018; and

1 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Police Department, the 4th largest
2 police department in the country, is continuing to work toward
3 fully deploying body-worn cameras over the next several years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, It is important to ensure that body-worn camera
6 footage protects both law enforcement officers and civilians
7 during conflicts; and

8 WHEREAS, It is vital that body-worn camera footage be
9 available to the prosecution, defense and public as necessary to
10 aide in the speedy and just resolution of criminal cases; and

11 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the data obtained by body-worn
12 camera footage be protected from cyber threats; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2017, Governor Tom Wolf signed a law that enabled
14 law enforcement officers to use body-worn cameras on the job
15 without risking illegal wiretapping or lawsuit charges; and

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is still lagging behind other
17 states in terms of law enforcement body-worn camera usage and
18 studies; and

19 WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers and agencies in this
20 Commonwealth face several obstacles concerning body-worn
21 cameras, including cost and usage of footage; and

22 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives believes that body-worn
23 camera footage could be used more effectively if all pieces of
24 footage, regardless of use in legal proceedings, were studied to
25 understand how they are used in the criminal justice system
26 throughout this Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives acknowledges the
28 importance of body-worn camera footage being used for the safety
29 of law enforcement officers and residents of this Commonwealth;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
2 State Government Commission to conduct a study on how body-worn
3 camera footage can be more effectively used to provide positive
4 and safe outcomes for both law enforcement officers and
5 civilians; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
7 how and by whom body-worn camera footage is currently used and
8 stored in this Commonwealth; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the study include the cost of filming, storing
10 and looking at every piece of body-worn camera footage recorded
11 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the study include recommendations to ensure
13 that body-worn camera footage is used for the justice of all and
14 shielded from cyber threats; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
16 of its study, establish an advisory committee comprised of, but
17 not limited to, individuals who have expertise or experience in
18 one or more of the following fields, positions or situations:

- 19 (1) Criminal justice.
- 20 (2) Policing.
- 21 (3) Prosecution.
- 22 (4) Criminal defense.
- 23 (5) Corrections.
- 24 (6) Body-worn camera research.
- 25 (7) Law enforcement training.
- 26 (8) Racial justice.
- 27 (9) Psychology.
- 28 (10) Big data in criminal justice.
- 29 (11) Cyber security.
- 30 (12) Collective bargaining.

1 (13) Algorithms in criminal justice.

2 (14) Ethics.

3 (15) Surveillance and facial recognition technology.

4 (16) Being involved in an incident where body-worn

5 camera footage was utilized;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report

8 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives

9 within 120 days of the adoption of this resolution.