

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3944

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras and securely storing and maintaining recorded data for law enforcement officers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2017

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a grant program to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in purchasing body-worn cameras and securely storing and maintaining recorded data for law enforcement officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Police Creating Ac-  
5 countability by Making Effective Recording Available Act  
6 of 2017” or the “Police CAMERA Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCE-**  
2 **MENT BODY-WORN CAMERAS.**

3 Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
4 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) is amended  
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART MM—MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
7 **LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY-WORN CAMERAS**  
8 **AND RECORDED DATA**

9 **“SEC. 3031. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of  
11 Justice Assistance (in this section referred to as the ‘Di-  
12 rector’) may make grants to States, units of local govern-  
13 ment, and Indian tribes to purchase or lease body-worn  
14 cameras for use by State, local, and tribal law enforcement  
15 officers (as defined in section 2503) and expenses related  
16 to the implementation of a body-worn camera program in  
17 order to deter excessive force, improve accountability and  
18 transparency of use of force by law enforcement officers,  
19 assist in responding to complaints against law enforce-  
20 ment officers, and improve evidence collection.

21 “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this  
23 part shall be 2 years in duration.

24 “(2) DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT AMOUNT.—In  
25 disbursing a grant awarded to an entity under this  
26 section—

1           “(A) upon awarding the grant to the enti-  
2           ty, the Director shall disburse 50 percent of the  
3           total grant amount to the entity; and

4           “(B) upon demonstration by the entity of  
5           completion of the requirements in subsection  
6           (d)(1), the Director shall disburse the remain-  
7           ing 50 percent of the total grant amount to the  
8           entity.

9           “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this  
10          section shall be—

11           “(1) distributed directly to the State, unit of  
12          local government, or Indian tribe; and

13           “(2) used for—

14           “(A) the purchase or lease of body-worn  
15          cameras for law enforcement officers on patrol  
16          in the jurisdiction of the grantee;

17           “(B) any costs relating to the implementa-  
18          tion of a body-worn camera program, including  
19          law enforcement officer training or the storage,  
20          maintenance, or security of recorded data col-  
21          lected under a body-worn camera program; or

22           “(C) implementing policies or procedures  
23          to comply with the requirements described in  
24          subsection (d).

25          “(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award a  
2 grant under this section to a State, unit of local gov-  
3 ernment, or Indian tribe requesting the grant that  
4 commits to—

5           “(A) establishing policies and procedures  
6 in accordance with the requirements described  
7 in paragraph (2) before law enforcement offi-  
8 cers use of body-worn cameras;

9           “(B) adopting recorded data collection and  
10 retention protocols as described in paragraph  
11 (3) before law enforcement officers use of body-  
12 worn cameras;

13           “(C) making the policies and protocols de-  
14 scribed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) available  
15 to the public; and

16           “(D) complying with the requirements for  
17 use of recorded data under paragraph (5).

18           “(2) REQUIRED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—  
19 An entity receiving a grant under this section  
20 shall—

21           “(A) develop with community input and  
22 publish for public view policies and protocols  
23 for—

24           “(i) the safe and effective use of body-  
25 worn cameras;

1           “(ii) the secure storage, handling, and  
2           destruction of recorded data collected by  
3           body-worn cameras;

4           “(iii) protecting the privacy rights of  
5           any individual who may be recorded by a  
6           body-worn camera;

7           “(iv) the release of any recorded data  
8           collected by a body-worn camera in accord-  
9           ance with the open records laws, if any, of  
10          the State; and

11          “(v) making recorded data available  
12          to prosecutors, defense attorneys, and  
13          other officers of the court in accordance  
14          with paragraph (5); and

15          “(B) conduct periodic evaluations of the  
16          security of the storage and handling of the  
17          body-worn camera data.

18          “(3) RECORDED DATA COLLECTION AND RE-  
19          TENTION PROTOCOL.—The recorded data collection  
20          and retention protocol described in this paragraph is  
21          a protocol that—

22                 “(A) requires—

23                         “(i) a law enforcement officer who is  
24                         wearing a body-mounted camera to provide  
25                         an explanation if an activity that is re-

1           required to be recorded by the body-mounted  
2           camera is not recorded;

3           “(ii) a law enforcement officer who is  
4           wearing a body-mounted camera to obtain  
5           consent to be recorded from a crime victim  
6           or witness before interviewing the victim or  
7           witness;

8           “(iii) the collection of recorded data  
9           unrelated to a legitimate law enforcement  
10          purpose be minimized to the greatest ex-  
11          tent practicable;

12          “(iv) the system used to store re-  
13          corded data collected by body-worn cam-  
14          eras shall log all viewing, modification, or  
15          deletion of stored recorded data and shall  
16          prevent, to the greatest extent practicable,  
17          the unauthorized access or disclosure of  
18          stored recorded data;

19          “(v) any law enforcement officer be  
20          prohibited from accessing the stored data  
21          without an authorized purpose; and

22          “(vi) the law enforcement agency to  
23          collect and report statistical data on—

1                   “(I) incidences of use of force,  
2                   disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gen-  
3                   der, and age of the victim;

4                   “(II) the number of complaints  
5                   filed against law enforcement officers;

6                   “(III) the disposition of com-  
7                   plaints filed against law enforcement  
8                   officers;

9                   “(IV) the number of times cam-  
10                  era footage is used for evidence collec-  
11                  tion in investigations of crimes; and

12                  “(V) any other additional statis-  
13                  tical data that the Director deter-  
14                  mines should be collected and re-  
15                  ported;

16                  “(B) allows an individual to file a com-  
17                  plaint with a law enforcement agency relating  
18                  to the improper use of body-worn cameras; and

19                  “(C) complies with any other requirements  
20                  established by the Director.

21                  “(4) REPORTING.—Statistical data required to  
22                  be collected under paragraph (3)(A)(vi) shall be re-  
23                  ported to the Director, who shall—

1           “(A) establish a standardized reporting  
2 system for statistical data collected under this  
3 program; and

4           “(B) establish a national database of sta-  
5 tistical data recorded under this program.

6           “(5) USE OR TRANSFER OF RECORDED DATA.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Recorded data col-  
8 lected by an entity receiving a grant under this  
9 section from a body-mounted camera shall be  
10 used only in internal and external investigations  
11 of misconduct by a law enforcement agency or  
12 officer, if there is reasonable suspicion that a  
13 recording contains evidence of a crime, or for  
14 limited training purposes. The Director shall es-  
15 tablish rules to ensure that the recorded data is  
16 used only for the purposes described in this  
17 subparagraph.

18           “(B) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—Ex-  
19 cept as provided in subparagraph (C), an entity  
20 receiving a grant under this section may not  
21 transfer any recorded data collected by the enti-  
22 ty from a body-mounted camera to another law  
23 enforcement or intelligence agency.

24           “(C) EXCEPTIONS.—



1           “(i) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.—An  
2           entity receiving a grant under this section  
3           may transfer recorded data collected by the  
4           entity from a body-mounted camera to an-  
5           other law enforcement agency or intel-  
6           ligence agency for use in a criminal inves-  
7           tigation if the requesting law enforcement  
8           or intelligence agency has reasonable sus-  
9           picion that the requested data contains evi-  
10          dence relating to the crime being inves-  
11          tigated.

12           “(ii) CIVIL RIGHTS CLAIMS.—An enti-  
13          ty receiving a grant under this section may  
14          transfer recorded data collected by the law  
15          enforcement agency from a body-mounted  
16          camera to another law enforcement agency  
17          for use in an investigation of any right,  
18          privilege, or immunity secured or protected  
19          by the Constitution or laws of the United  
20          States.

21          “(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—

22           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
23          graph (3), the Federal share of the cost of a pro-  
24          gram carried out using a grant under this part may

1 not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the pro-  
2 gram.

3 “(2) INDIAN ASSISTANCE.—Any funds appro-  
4 priated by Congress for the activities of any agency  
5 of an Indian tribal government or the Bureau of In-  
6 dian Affairs performing law enforcement functions  
7 on any Indian lands may be used to provide the non-  
8 Federal share of the matching requirement described  
9 in paragraph (1).

10 “(3) WAIVER.—The Director may waive, in  
11 whole or in part, the matching requirement de-  
12 scribed in paragraph (1) in the case of fiscal hard-  
13 ship, as determined by the Director.

14 “(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—For fiscal years 2018  
15 and 2019, of the amounts appropriated to the Bureau of  
16 Justice Assistance, \$30,000,000 shall be used to carry out  
17 this part.

18 “(g) AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
20 after the date of enactment of this part, the Director  
21 of the Office of Audit, Assessment, and Management  
22 shall perform an assessment of the grant program  
23 and the policies and protocols of the grantees.

24 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than September 1 of  
25 each year, beginning 2 years after the date of enact-

1       ment of this part, each recipient of a grant under  
2       this part shall submit to the Director of the Office  
3       of Audit, Assessment, and Management a report  
4       that—

5               “(A) describes the progress of the body-  
6       worn camera program; and

7               “(B) contains recommendations on ways in  
8       which the Federal Government, States, and  
9       units of local government can further support  
10      the implementation of the program.

11              “(3) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of  
12      Audit, Assessment, and Management shall evaluate  
13      the policies and protocols of the grantees and take  
14      such steps as the Director of the Office of Audit, As-  
15      sessment, and Management determines necessary to  
16      ensure compliance with the program.

17      **“SEC. 3032. BODY-WORN CAMERA TRAINING TOOLKIT.**

18              “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and  
19      maintain a toolkit for law enforcement agencies, academia,  
20      and other relevant entities to provide training and tech-  
21      nical assistance, including best practices for implementa-  
22      tion, model policies and procedures, and research mate-  
23      rials.

24              “(b) MECHANISM.—In establishing the toolkit re-  
25      quired to under subsection (a), the Director may consoli-

1 date research, practices, templates, and tools that been de-  
2 veloped by expert and law enforcement agencies across the  
3 country.

4 **“SEC. 3033. APPLICATIONS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To request a grant under this  
6 part, the chief executive of a State, unit of local govern-  
7 ment, or Indian tribe shall submit an application to the  
8 Director in a form and containing information as the Di-  
9 rector may reasonably require.

10 “(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after  
11 the date of the enactment of this part, the Director shall  
12 promulgate regulations to implement this part, including  
13 the information that shall be included and the require-  
14 ments that the States, units of local government, and In-  
15 dian tribes must meet in submitting the applications re-  
16 quired under this section.

17 **“SEC. 3034. STUDY.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
19 date on which all grants are awarded under this part, the  
20 Director shall conduct a study on—

21 “(1) the efficacy of body-worn cameras in deter-  
22 ring excessive force by law enforcement officers;

23 “(2) the impact of body-worn cameras on the  
24 accountability and transparency of the use of force  
25 by law enforcement officers;

1           “(3) the impact of body-worn cameras on re-  
2           sponses to and adjudications of complaints of exces-  
3           sive force;

4           “(4) the effect of the use of body-worn cameras  
5           on the safety of law enforcement officers on patrol;

6           “(5) the effect of the use of body-worn cameras  
7           on public safety;

8           “(6) the impact of body-worn cameras on evi-  
9           dence collection for criminal investigations;

10          “(7) issues relating to the secure storage and  
11          handling of recorded data from the body-worn cam-  
12          eras;

13          “(8) issues relating to the privacy of citizens  
14          and officers recorded on body-worn cameras;

15          “(9) issues relating to the public’s access to  
16          body-worn camera footage;

17          “(10) the need for proper training of law en-  
18          forcement officers that use body-worn cameras;

19          “(11) best practices in the development of pro-  
20          tocols for the safe and effective use of body-worn  
21          cameras;

22          “(12) a review of law enforcement agencies that  
23          found body-worn cameras to be unhelpful in the op-  
24          erations of the agencies; and

1           “(13) any other factors that the Director deter-  
2           mines are relevant in evaluating the efficacy of body-  
3           worn cameras.

4           “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the  
5           date on which the study required under subsection (a) is  
6           completed, the Director shall submit to Congress a report  
7           on the study, which shall include any policy recommenda-  
8           tions that the Director considers appropriate.”.

○