

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/24, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Sprenger, Williamson

Nays: 2 - Olson, Post

Prepared By: Laura Handzel, Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires law enforcement agency to establish policies and procedures for retaining recordings from cameras worn upon police officers to record interactions with members of public while on duty. Outlines public records requirements and exemptions. Clarifies terms related to evidence and discovery. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of body camera usage in other areas, including decreasing incidents of use of physical force, decreasing community tension, and increasing community trust
- 2013 California study on body camera usage
- Work group efforts on bill
- Permissive nature of bill
- Need for tailored policies at the local level
- Record retention and storage issues
- Privacy concerns versus transparency
- Need for balance among stakeholders
- Merle Hatch tragedy and video
- Work group on law enforcement and responsible use of technology
- Fiscal savings possible
- Timing regarding when camera is turned on and off

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies terms related to evidence and discovery. Establishes when recordings must be disclosed, exceptions, and requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The use of personal cameras worn upon a police officer's person – known as “body cameras” – has recently been a topic of national debate. Currently in Oregon, there is no requirement that police officers wear body cameras. Body cameras, however, are becoming increasingly popular among some of Oregon's law enforcement agencies.

House Bill 2571 A does not require the use of body cameras in Oregon. The bill, however, requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies and procedures for retaining recordings from body cameras worn upon a police officer's person to record their interactions with members of the public while on duty. House Bill 2571 A defines terms. It outlines public records law exemptions and exceptions to exemptions. Additionally, it mandates

that all faces must be blurred to render them unidentifiable before disclosure. House Bill 2571 A clarifies evidence and discovery rules as they pertain to body cameras.