

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Judiciary

MEASURE: HB 2571 B
CARRIER: Sen. Prozanski

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/02/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 05/21, 06/02

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Burdick, Gelser, Prozanski, Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Kruse

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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:

- 2013 California study on body camera usage
- Work group efforts and compromises
- Measure as a policy floor, not a mandate
- Community policing
- Mandatory records retention
- Public records law
- Public safety
- Changes in law enforcement and prosecutions due to technology
- Privacy concerns and protections
- Video editing – extent, time, cost, staffing
- Court discretion
- Definition of “approximate”
- Access to video by person interacting with police officer
- Attorney assessment of video
- Effects of amendments
- Transparency
- Public interest test

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds “ongoing criminal investigations” to exceptions for recording retention 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-B 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. It also outlines public records law exemptions and exceptions to exemptions, mandates that all faces must be blurred to render them

unidentifiable before disclosure, and clarifies evidence and discovery rules as they pertain to body cameras. The bill declares an emergency and is effective on passage.