



DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

270 Washington St., S.W., Suite 1-156
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

Greg S. Griffin
STATE AUDITOR
(404) 656-2174

January 6, 2017

Honorable Steve Henson
State Senator
121-B State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
Senate Bill (LC 41 0853)

Dear Senator Henson:

The bill would require each state, county, and local law enforcement agency, on or after January 1, 2018, to equip all peace officers who conduct traffic stops or respond to emergency dispatch calls as their primary duty with body camera to record activities while on duty. Recordings are to be kept for a period of 180 days, except when the recording is considered evidence in which case it will be retained for 30 months, in accordance with O.C.G.A 50-18-96. The bill further directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create applicable rules and regulations for awarding any financial grants to law enforcement agencies involving state or state administered federal funding.

The bill's total fiscal impact to state and local governments is estimated to be approximately \$22.4 million in FY 2018 and \$9.8 million in FY 2019 and each year thereafter, as shown in **Table 1** on the following page. First-year costs include the purchase of body cameras for officers not currently equipped and computer servers. Estimated prices for equipment were provided by major camera suppliers, state agencies, and local law enforcement entities. Recurring costs encompass data file storage, software license agreements, and maintenance of equipment. The recurring costs are subject to change in the future, as technology and maintenance may become more affordable. FY 2018 recurring costs are for six months because the bill becomes effective January 1, 2018.

Overall, state agencies' fiscal impact is estimated to be approximately \$1.7 million in FY 2018 and \$840,000 in FY 2019. These amounts do not include costs for DPS to establish and operate a grants administration program. Total costs to state authorities are estimated to be approximately \$100,000 for FY 2018 and \$44,000 in FY 2019. Finally, local agency costs are estimated at \$20.6 million in FY 2018 and \$8.9 million in FY 2019.

Table 1: Total Costs for State and Local Agencies

Department Type	FY 2018 Initial Outlay	FY 2018 Recurring Costs	FY 2019 and Later Recurring Costs
State Agencies	\$1,262,400	\$421,260	\$842,520
State Authorities	\$75,000	\$21,790	\$43,580
Local Agencies	\$16,146,900	\$4,430,398	\$8,880,795
Total	\$17,484,300	\$4,883,448	\$9,766,895

The costs of outfitting law enforcement officers for each entity considered are outlined in **Tables 2 – 4** below. A majority of state agencies and authorities contacted have begun to outfit their law enforcement officers with body cameras. Agencies have either kept these recordings in-house utilizing external hard drives or employ a third party vendor to store the information. The ability to keep the information in-house has reduced the cost of storing data over an extended period of time.

Table 2: Cost for State Agencies

Agency	FY 2018 Initial Outlay	FY 2018 Recurring Costs	FY 2019 and Later Recurring Costs
Department of Public Safety	\$606,000	\$116,150	\$232,300
Department of Community Supervision	\$542,000	\$284,760	\$569,520
Department of Natural Resources	\$12,000	\$800	\$1,600
University System of Georgia	\$76,800	\$14,720	\$29,440
Technical College System	\$25,200	\$4,830	\$9,660
Total	\$1,262,400	\$421,260	\$842,520

Table 3: Cost for State Authorities

Authority	FY 2018 Initial Outlay	FY 2018 Recurring Costs	FY 2019 and Later Recurring Costs
Stone Mountain Park	\$0	\$7,500	\$15,000
Georgia Ports Authority	\$51,000	\$9,690	\$19,380
World Congress Center	\$24,000	\$4,600	\$9,200
Total	\$75,000	\$21,790	\$43,580

This bill would also have a fiscal impact on the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) since it maintains an independent law enforcement function. MARTA is currently conducting a body camera pilot program with a small number of officers (13). Once the pilot is complete, MARTA could seek to outfit up to 389 officers with body cameras. Specific costs needed to estimate the bill's impact on MARTA are not readily available and are, therefore, not included in this fiscal note.

Local agency costs were estimated based on 2014 survey data indicated the percentage of departments and officers using body cameras. Updated survey data was not available, but we assumed that body camera usage had increased since the survey. **Table 4** assumes a 25% increase in the number of departments and officers already using body cameras. Since we were not able to

contact specific agencies to determine their file storage costs, we estimated these to be higher than state agencies per unit.

Table 4: Cost for Local Agencies

Department Type	FY 2018 Initial Outlay	FY 2018 Recurring Costs	FY 2019 and Later Recurring Costs
County Sheriffs' Offices	\$7,463,250	\$2,052,394	\$4,104,788
County Police Departments	\$1,809,000	\$497,475	\$994,950
City Police Departments	\$5,964,150	\$1,640,141	\$3,280,283
K-12 Campus Police Departments	\$910,500	\$250,388	\$500,775
Total	\$16,146,900	\$4,440,398	\$8,880,795

This bill requires DPS to create rules and regulations for the administration of financial grants to law enforcement agencies involving state or state administered federal funding. Federal funding, however, is currently not available for body camera equipment, according to state agencies contacted. Because DPS does not currently administer grants to law enforcement agencies, it would need auditors, analysts, and other support staff for the role. The costs would depend on the number of grants being distributed and monitored. It should be noted that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) frequently administers grants for law enforcement agencies. As such, CJCC's costs to manage grant funding for body cameras would likely be significantly lower. CJCC estimated needed to add one full-time staff person to administer this type of grant funding.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Teresa A. MacCartney, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/TAM/jca/jf