

**Public Safety and Security Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: HB-5229

AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF
DASHBOARD CAMERAS WITH A REMOTE RECORDER AND DIGITAL DATA

Title: STORAGE DEVICES OR SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/16/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/27/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This legislation would reimburse municipalities for the cost of digital data storage devices or services purchased for law enforcement officers during FY 2017-18, and expand the grant to cover the cost of dashboard cameras purchased for use in police cruisers since December 31, 2010.

***JFS language expands grant programs that reimburses a municipality for the cost of replacing a dashboard camera purchased prior to December 31, 2010.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Shaw, Timothy, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Mr. Shaw suggested amending the bill to allow reimbursement for dashboard cameras for any town that has not purchased the devices since December 31, 2010. This would encourage the updating of older technology and increase transparency at the community level, he said.

Fields, Isaiah, vice president & associate general counsel for Axon Enterprise Inc.

Mr. Fields said the bill would help Connecticut law enforcement agencies access technology that would make them “safer, more efficient, and enable greater transparency.” Axon, which describes itself as a “technology partner” for law enforcement, pointed to independent studies and data that “affirm the value of law enforcement camera programs and digital evidence management systems.” The equipment increases conviction rates and helps agencies correct internal problems and address performance issues, he said.

Muszynski, Mike, advocacy manager for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

CCM stated its support for the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

McGuire, David, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut

Mr. McGuire said the legislation is counter to the underlying bill’s purpose – that is, allowing police department’s to “acquire new transparency technology” such as body, Taser and dashboard cameras. The fund was not meant to reimburse departments for previous purchases, he said, therefore, allowing such reimbursements would deplete the fund without creating more transparency.

Reported by: D.G. Fisher, Assistant Clerk

Date: March 27, 2018