

Police Recording Equipment

State Law Requiring and Permitting Body Camera and Dashboard Camera Use

Law Currently

Current state law generally requires police officers to use body-worn recording equipment (i.e., body cameras) while interacting with the public in their law enforcement capacity if they are sworn members of (1) the State Police, (2) a public university or college special police force, or (3) a municipal police department that has received certain state reimbursement grants for body camera purchases. It expressly permits (but does not require) sworn members of all other municipal police departments to use body cameras ([CGS § 29-6d](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#)).

Law Taking Effect in 2021 and 2022

By January 1, 2021, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) must equip every State Police uniformed trooper with a body camera and every State Police marked vehicle with a dashboard camera (Governor Lamont's [Executive Order No. 8](#)).

Beginning July 1, 2022, new legislation expands state law's body camera requirement to include all sworn members of state, municipal, and tribal law enforcement units and members of those units who perform police duties. It also obligates each of those units to require the use of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder in each police patrol vehicle used by any of the officers it employs ([CGS § 29-6d](#), as amended by [PA 20-1, July Special Session](#)).

Law Enforcement Units Currently Required to Use Body Cameras

- State Police
- 38 Municipal Police Departments (out of 94)
- UConn Police and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Police Departments

State Funding for Police Recording Devices and Services

There are currently two separate grant programs that help fund police recording device and service purchases. The first, originally enacted in 2015, authorizes up to \$12 million in reimbursement grants, with \$5 million earmarked to DESPP and \$7 million to municipalities ([PA 15-1, June Special Session](#), as amended by [PA 20-1](#), and [CGS § 7-277b](#), as amended by [PA 19-11](#) and [PA 20-1](#)). It currently has approximately \$3 million for DESPP and \$550,000 for municipalities remaining. The second, enacted in 2020, authorizes up to \$4 million in grants available exclusively for municipalities ([PA 20-1, July Special Session](#)). The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) administers these programs based on statutory criteria, including the following methodologies for municipal grants.

Original Grant Program

Purchasing Conditions	Purchases	Reimbursement Rate
Purchased during FYs 17 or 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Body cameras (if a sufficient quantity is purchased),Digital data storage devices or services,Electronic defense weapon recording equipment,First-time purchases of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, orDashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace cameras purchased before December 31, 2010	100% of the costs associated with the purchases*
Purchased during FYs 17 or 18 and paid for by August 31, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Body cameras (if a sufficient quantity is purchased)	100% of the costs associated with the purchase
Purchased during FYs 19-21 and not reimbursed for purchases from January 1, 2012, through FY 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Body cameras,Digital data storage devices or services,Electronic defense weapon recording equipment,First-time purchases of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, orDashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace cameras purchased before December 31, 2010	50% of the costs associated with the purchases*

*Amount for digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year

Additional Grant Program

Grant Availability	Purchases	Grant Amount
FYs 21 and 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Body cameras,Digital data storage devices or services,First-time purchases of dashboard cameras with a remote recorder, orDashboard cameras with a remote recorder that replace cameras purchased before December 31, 2010	50% of the associated costs for distressed municipalities and 30% for all other municipalities*

*Amount for digital data storage services is limited to the cost for up to one year

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“OLR Backgrounder: Body Cameras, Dashboard Cameras, and Other Police Recording Equipment,” OLR Report [2020-R-0173](#)

[Body Camera Guidelines](#), DESPP-POST

[Body Camera and Digital Storage Devices and Services Minimal Technical Specifications](#), DESPP-POST

[Grant Program Webpage](#), OPM

