FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION STATEMENT ON SENATE BILL 225, AN ACT CONCERNING FEES FOR COPYING, REVIEWING AND REDACTING RECORDS CREATED BY POLICE BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND DASHBOARD CAMERAS.

February 23, 2026

Senate Bill 225 would allow a law enforcement agency to charge a fee for labor costs incurred by the agency to redact a record created by police body-worn equipment and dashboard cameras, with exceptions. The proposal is intended to compensate the agency for the time spent redacting any portion of the record as required or authorized by state or federal law.

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission recognizes that in recent years law enforcement agencies have experienced an increase in requests for records created by police body-worn recording equipment and dashboard cameras where the agency's compliance has consumed the agency's resources. Nevertheless, the Commission believes that any fee structure should be reasonable and that records should be provided at the least cost; the fees should not impose an unnecessary financial barrier to obtaining access to public records to which the public is entitled.

The FOI Commission worked with the proponents of similar proposals[1] regarding the establishment of a fair and balanced fee structure that would not impose too great a cost, create a barrier to public access and discourage requests for information. We made great strides in this regard and appreciate that many of the components sought by the Commission are contained in Senate Bill 225. For example, the proposal provides that a public agency cannot charge for time spent searching for records, nor can they charge for the services of any attorney hired to review records; and labor costs may only be charged at the rate of the lowest-paid employee with the requisite training and are capped.

The Commission met again this year with the proponents of this proposal as well as other stakeholders to further discuss the establishment of a reasonable fee structure and possible amendments to the proposal.

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[1] *See e.g.,* Senate Bill 1222 (2023), Senate Bill 431 (2024) and Senate Bill 1229 (2025).