
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 923 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MIZGORSKI, HANBIDGE, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS,
SAPPEY, MADDEN, ROZZI, WARREN, ZABEL, SCHWEYER, TOOHIL,
GREEN, HOHENSTEIN, STURLA, SANCHEZ AND LEE, JUNE 29, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 29, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on how body-worn camera footage can be more effectively
3 used to provide positive and safe outcomes for both law
4 enforcement officers and civilians.

5 WHEREAS, Body-worn cameras have become more widely used by
6 law enforcement officers throughout the United States, including
7 policing and corrections; and

8 WHEREAS, A United States Department of Justice study found
9 that 95% of the nation's largest police departments have been
10 using body cameras or planned to adopt the use of body cameras
11 by 2015; and

12 WHEREAS, A Bureau of Justice Statistics study found that 47%
13 of general-purpose law enforcement agencies had acquired body-
14 worn cameras as of 2016, of which 60% of local police
15 departments and 49% of sheriffs' offices had fully deployed
16 their body-worn cameras; and

17 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Police are piloting the use
18 of body-worn cameras; and

1 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Police Department, the 4th largest
2 police department in the country, will be fully deploying body-
3 worn cameras over the next several years; and

4 WHEREAS, It is important to ensure that body-worn camera
5 footage protects both law enforcement officers and civilians
6 during conflicts; and

7 WHEREAS, It is vital that body-worn camera footage be
8 available to the prosecution, defense and public as necessary to
9 aide in the speedy and just resolution of criminal cases; and

10 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the data obtained by body-worn
11 camera footage be protected from cyber threats; and

12 WHEREAS, Two years ago, Governor Tom Wolf signed a law that
13 enabled law enforcement officers to use body cameras on the job
14 without risking illegal wiretapping or lawsuit charges; and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is still lagging behind other
16 states in terms of law enforcement body-worn camera usage and
17 studies; and

18 WHEREAS, Law enforcement officers and agencies in this
19 Commonwealth face several obstacles concerning body-worn
20 cameras, including cost and usage of footage; and

21 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives believes that body-worn
22 camera footage could be used more effectively if all pieces of
23 footage, regardless of use in legal proceedings, were studied to
24 understand how they are used in the criminal justice system
25 throughout this Commonwealth; and

26 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives acknowledges the
27 importance of body-worn camera footage being used for the safety
28 of law enforcement officers and residents of this Commonwealth;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint

1 State Government Commission to conduct a study on how body-worn
2 camera footage can be more effectively used to provide positive
3 and safe outcomes for both law enforcement officers and
4 civilians; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
6 how and by whom body-worn camera footage is currently used and
7 stored in this Commonwealth; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the study include the cost of filming, storing
9 and looking at every piece of body-worn camera footage recorded
10 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the study include recommendations to ensure
12 that body-worn camera footage is used for the justice of all and
13 shielded from cyber threats; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
15 of its study, establish an advisory committee comprised of, but
16 not limited to, individuals who have expertise or experience in
17 one or more of the following fields, positions or situations:

- 18 (1) Criminal justice.
- 19 (2) Policing.
- 20 (3) Prosecution.
- 21 (4) Criminal defense.
- 22 (5) Corrections.
- 23 (6) Body-worn camera research.
- 24 (7) Law enforcement training.
- 25 (8) Racial justice.
- 26 (9) Psychology.
- 27 (10) Big data in criminal justice.
- 28 (11) Cyber security.
- 29 (12) Collective bargaining.
- 30 (13) Algorithms in criminal justice.

1 (14) Ethics.

2 (15) Surveillance and facial recognition technology.

3 (16) Being involved in an incident where body-worn

4 camera footage was utilized;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report

7 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives

8 within 120 days of the adoption of this resolution.