

HB 2354 -- VIDEO RECORDERS USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

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This bill allows the governing body of any county or municipality, if approved by a majority of voters voting on the proposal, to provide for an additional surcharge of up to \$1 for each criminal case for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining video cameras worn by peace officers and storing information collected by the cameras. Surcharges collected by municipal clerks must be distributed to the city at least monthly, and surcharges collected by circuit court clerks must be collected and distributed according to existing statutes. The surcharges may only be used for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining the video cameras and costs related to the maintenance and storage of data collected by the cameras.

Starting January 1, 2018, all uniformed officers in Missouri will wear body cameras on their uniforms while on duty. The camera will record both audio and video of the interaction between officers and members of the public. This does not apply to detectives, undercover officers, or any officer in any situation in which wearing the camera would endanger the safety of the officer or the public.

The Department of Public Safety will develop a grant program to help state and local law enforcement agencies with purchasing, maintaining, and replacing body cameras, and to help with the costs related to maintaining and storing data recorded by the cameras. This bill establishes a state treasury fund known as the "Law Enforcement Officer-worn Body Camera Fund," and the fund will be administered by the Department of Public Safety.

This bill adds data collected from officer-worn body cameras to the investigative information, which would otherwise be closed, that a person may bring an action in the appropriate court to have opened.