

ASSEMBLY, No. 5039

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires correctional police officers to wear body worn cameras.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/19/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning correctional police officers and body worn
2 cameras and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Commissioner of Corrections shall require all
8 correctional police officers in every correctional facility in this
9 State to wear a body worn camera while the officer is acting in the
10 performance of the officer's duties.

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12 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
13 month next following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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18 This bill requires all correctional police officers employed in a
19 correctional facility in this State to wear a body worn camera
20 (BWC) while the officer is acting in the performance of the
21 officer's duties.

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23 According to the sponsor, it is beneficial to both the correctional
24 police officers and the inmates when officers utilize body worn
25 cameras (BWCs) in the violent, high stress environment of a
26 correctional facility. The use of BWCs results in deescalating
27 potentially violent situations, dissuades inmates from assaulting
28 officers due to the threat of prosecution based on BWC video,
29 reduces the need for staff use of force, filters allegations from
prisoners, and provides reliable evidence in legitimate cases.