

SENATE, No. 3472

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires correctional police officers to wear body worn cameras under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning body worn cameras and supplementing Title 30
2 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. a. A correctional police officer acting in the performance of
8 the officer's official duties in a State correctional facility shall wear
9 a body worn camera:

10 (1) when designated by the Department of Corrections as a
11 member of the Special Operations Group;

12 (2) while in a close custody unit;

13 (3) while in a housing unit;

14 (4) when providing mobile security; and

15 (5) when in contact with a member of the public.

16 b. For the purposes of this section:

17 "Body worn camera" means a device worn by a law enforcement
18 officer that makes an electronic audio or video recording of
19 activities that take place during any law enforcement action,
20 excluding a mobile video recording device mounted inside a police
21 vehicle or an electronic recording device worn by a law
22 enforcement officer while acting in an undercover capacity.

23 "Close custody unit" means an area within a correctional facility
24 designated for assigning inmates who are removed from the general
25 population for disciplinary or administrative reasons.

26 "Housing unit" means a cell, dormitory, or other type of sleeping
27 area within a correctional facility.

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

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires correctional police officers in this State's
36 correctional facilities to wear body worn cameras under certain
37 circumstances.

38 The bill specifically requires correctional police officers
39 employed in State correctional facilities who are acting in the
40 performance of their official duties to wear a body worn camera: (1)
41 when designated by the Department of Corrections as a member of
42 the Special Operations Group; (2) while in a close custody unit; (3)
43 while in a housing unit; (4) when providing mobile security; and (5)
44 when in contact with a member of the public.

45 According to the sponsor, the use of body worn cameras in
46 correctional facilities enhances the surveillance capabilities in the
47 facility, particularly blind spots, which can result in a reduction in
48 instances of sexual assault. The cameras also provide unbiased

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1 accounts of use of force occurrences, provide evidence in
2 prosecutions and intelligence gathering, deter negative behavior by
3 both staff and inmates, and provide protection against frivolous
4 lawsuits.