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SB 583 - Informational  
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SB 583 – Law Enforcement – Body-Worn Cameras – Capabilities  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
February 17, 2021

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of Axon Enterprise, Inc. (“Axon”) I would like to first thank the committee for the opportunity to be a resource for SB 583. Axon is the industry leader in the body-worn camera and digital evidence management market. Our mission is to protect life and our network is constantly evolving to bring increased transparency and accountability to public safety.

SB 583 requires that body-worn cameras automatically record and save two (2) minutes of audio and video footage immediately prior to a camera recording. Axon’s body-worn cameras are capable of this requirement. Axon’s body cameras have two (2) operating modes; Buffering mode and Recording mode.

- Buffering mode provides pre-event buffering to capture activities that occur prior to the user activating the Recording, or Event, mode.
- An agency can configure the camera’s settings in its Axon Evidence (evidence.com) account, including setting the pre-event buffering duration for up to 2 minutes total, which can record audio as well as video. The agency’s Axon body-worn camera settings are downloaded and set in the camera when docked in the Axon Dock.
- The majority of agencies who use Axon body-worn cameras default to 30 second, video-only pre-event buffer, which is the factory default setting.

Additional information around the cameras’s operating modes:

- When an officer powers on an Axon body camera it will automatically enter Buffering mode. When in Buffering mode the camera captures the set duration of video into volatile memory but does not record to permanent memory.
- When Recording (Event) mode is activated, the buffered video captured directly preceding the event is attached to the beginning of the event recording and saved to non-volatile (permanent) memory. This feature is intended to capture the video of the moments preceding an incident, for the set duration before a recording begins.
- To stop a recording, an officer must press and hold the Event button for three (3) seconds, which will return the camera to Buffering mode.
- To power off the camera, depending on the body-worn camera model in use, an officer must either slide the power switch or press and hold the power button for three (3) seconds.

Depending on an agency’s configuration, in addition to manual activation, other events or actions can automatically signal an officer’s body-worn camera to transition from Buffering to Recording mode. Axon offers auto-activation technology – Axon Signal – which allows for a recording device to start recording via several different means without an officer physically activating the recording and helps to ensure critical events are captured from start to finish. For example, body-worn cameras can be automatically transitioned from Buffering to Recording mode when an officer unholsters a firearm.

Thank you again for the opportunity serve as a resource.