



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0661
PUBLIC SAFETY - LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
BODY-WORN CAMERAS**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Sydnor

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0661 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition is heavily in favor of having police use body-worn cameras. We believe that they are a necessary item and that all officers should wear them. We also believe that there should be procedures in place for the use of the cameras, as well as procedures for when recording is mandatory vs when it is discretionary.

Under a law passed during the 2021 General Assembly session, police agencies in Maryland are required to have on-duty officers wear cameras by July 1, 2025. SB0661 broadens the use of cameras to all law enforcement officers, regardless of rank, while the officer is in uniform and conducting law enforcement related duties.

BWCs are seen as a potential tool to improve police-community relations, reduce complaints and lawsuits, and enhance officer safety and performance. We believe that this is an important policy to implement more fully.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.