

S 877

Police CAMERA Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Mar 26, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 26, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/877>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 26, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 21, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 28, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 16, 2015
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 16, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 26, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1610	Related bill	Jun 18, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4302)
114 HR 1680	Identical bill	Apr 29, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Police Creating Accountability by Making Effective Recording Available Act of 2015 or the Police CAMERA Act

Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs to make grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes to purchase or lease body-worn cameras for use by law enforcement officers, and for expenses related to the implementation of a body-worn camera program, in order to deter excessive force, improve accountability and transparency of use of force by law enforcement officers, assist in responding to complaints against officers, and improve evidence collection.

Requires a grantee to: (1) develop, with community input, policies for the safe and effective use of body-worn cameras, for the secure storage, handling, and destruction of data collected, for protecting the privacy rights of any individual who may be recorded, and for the release of any data collected in accordance with the open records laws of the state; and (2) conduct periodic evaluations of the security of the storage and handling of the body-worn camera data.

Requires a grantee to adopt data collection and retention protocols that:

- require an officer wearing a camera to provide an explanation if an activity that is required to be recorded is not recorded and to obtain a crime victim's or witness's consent to be recorded before interviewing him or her;
- minimize the collection of data unrelated to a legitimate law enforcement purpose;
- require the system used to store collected data to log all viewing, modification, or deletion of such data and to prevent its unauthorized access or disclosure;
- prohibit any law enforcement officer from accessing the stored data without an authorized purpose;
- require the law enforcement agency to collect and report data on incidences of use of force, the number of complaints filed against officers, the disposition of such complaints, and the number of times camera footage is used for evidence collection in investigations of crimes; and
- allow an individual to file a complaint with a law enforcement agency relating to the improper use of such cameras.

Allows data collected by a grantee to be used only in internal and external investigations of misconduct by a law enforcement agency or officer, if there is reasonable suspicion that a recording contains evidence of a crime, or for limited training purposes. Prohibits a grantee from transferring any collected data to another law enforcement or intelligence agency, with specified exceptions for investigations of crimes and civil rights violations.

Directs the Assistant Attorney General to study and report to Congress on the efficacy of body-worn cameras.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 26, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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