

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-100—sHB 7073

Public Safety and Security Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE OFFICER REVIEW OF CERTAIN RECORDINGS

SUMMARY: This act changes two sets of laws that authorize certain police officers to review specific recordings from body-worn recording equipment (i.e. body cameras) and dashboard cameras and set deadlines for disclosing the recordings. The act generally reduces which recordings are reviewable and subject to the deadlines and changes when one of the deadlines is triggered. It also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BODY AND DASHBOARD CAMERA RECORDING REVIEW AUTHORIZATIONS AND RELATED DISCLOSURE DEADLINES

Under prior law, police officers who were giving a formal statement about the use of force or were the subject of a disciplinary investigation in which a body or dashboard camera recording was being considered as part of a review of an incident, had the right to review (1) that recording with his or her attorney or labor representative present and (2) recordings from other body cameras that captured the officer's image or voice during the incident. The act eliminates this exact right and instead (1) gives officers giving formal statements about the use of force the right to review, with their attorney or labor representative present, a recording only if it captured the use of force and (2) allows officers who are the subject of a disciplinary investigation to review a recording only if it is (a) from his or her body camera or a dashboard camera and (b) being considered as part of the investigation.

Prior law set disclosure deadlines for the above body and dashboard camera recordings that were being considered as part of a review of an incident. It required these recordings to be disclosable to the public, upon request, by the earlier of (1) 48 hours after a police officer had reviewed it with his or her attorney or labor representative present or (2) 96 hours after the start of the disciplinary proceeding if the officer did not review it. Under the act, these 48- and 96-hour deadlines only apply to the recordings that officers giving a formal statement about the use of force have a right to review (i.e. recordings that capture the use of force). It also changes the circumstances for triggering the 96-hour deadline to be after a request for a public disclosure of the recording.

The act also modifies a second set of recording review authorizations and disclosure deadlines. Under prior law, if a request was made for public disclosure of a body and dashboard camera recording of an incident about which a police officer had not been asked to give a formal statement about the alleged use of force or a disciplinary investigation had not been initiated, any police officer whose

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image or voice was captured on the recording had the right to review it with his or her attorney or labor representative present. The act carries forward this review right for officers whose image or voice is captured on a requested recording but limits its application to when a request is made for a recording that captured an alleged use of force and a police officer has not been asked to give a formal statement about the alleged use of force. These recordings under the act are subject to existing deadlines that require they be disclosed to the public by the earlier of (1) 48 hours after an officer's review of it with his or her attorney or labor representative present or (2) 96 hours after the disclosure request.

By law, unchanged by the act and applicable to both sets of disclosure deadlines, recordings of certain scenarios (e.g., encounters with undercover officers or informants and activities in mental health facilities) are, generally, not disclosable and public disclosure may be delayed for up to 144 hours after the recorded event if the officer is not reasonably able to review the recording because of a medical or physical response or an acute psychological stress response to the incident.