

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5070

To require Federal law enforcement officers to wear body cameras, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 29, 2025

Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. BEYER) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require Federal law enforcement officers to wear body
cameras, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Police Camera
5 and Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**
7 **OFFICERS REGARDING THE USE OF BODY**
8 **CAMERAS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) MINOR.—The term “minor” means any in-
2 dividual under 18 years of age.

3 (2) SUBJECT OF THE VIDEO FOOTAGE.—The
4 term “subject of the video footage”—

5 (A) means any identifiable Federal law en-
6 forcement officer or any identifiable suspect,
7 victim, detainee, conversant, injured party, or
8 other similarly situated person who appears on
9 the body camera recording; and

10 (B) does not include people who only inci-
11 dentally appear on the recording.

12 (3) VIDEO FOOTAGE.—The term “video foot-
13 age” means any images or audio recorded by a body
14 camera.

15 (4) FACIAL RECOGNITION OR OTHER BIOMET-
16 RIC SURVEILLANCE.—The term “facial recognition
17 or other biometric surveillance” means an automated
18 or semiautomated process that captures or analyzes
19 biometric data of an individual to identify or assist
20 in identifying an individual or an automated or
21 semiautomated process that generates, or assists in
22 generating, surveillance information about an indi-
23 vidual based on biometric data.

24 (b) REQUIREMENT TO WEAR BODY CAMERA.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Federal law enforcement of-
2 ficers shall wear a body camera.

3 (2) REQUIREMENT FOR BODY CAMERA.—A
4 body camera required under paragraph (1) shall—

5 (A) have a field of view at least as broad
6 as the officer’s vision; and

7 (B) be worn in a manner that maximizes
8 the camera’s ability to capture video footage of
9 the officer’s activities.

10 (c) REQUIREMENT TO ACTIVATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Both the video and audio re-
12 cording functions of the body camera shall be acti-
13 vated whenever a Federal law enforcement officer is
14 responding to a call for service or at the initiation
15 of any other law enforcement or investigative stop
16 (as such term is defined in section 3) between a
17 Federal law enforcement officer and a member of
18 the public, except that when an immediate threat to
19 the officer’s life or safety makes activating the cam-
20 era impossible or dangerous, the officer shall acti-
21 vate the camera at the first reasonable opportunity
22 to do so.

23 (2) ALLOWABLE DEACTIVATION.—The body
24 camera shall not be deactivated until the stop has

1 fully concluded and the Federal law enforcement of-
2 ficer leaves the scene.

3 (d) NOTIFICATION OF SUBJECT OF RECORDING.—A
4 Federal law enforcement officer who is wearing a body
5 camera shall notify any subject of the recording that he
6 or she is being recorded by a body camera as close to the
7 inception of the stop as is reasonably possible.

8 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection
9 (c), the following shall apply to the use of a body camera:

10 (1) Prior to entering a private residence with-
11 out a warrant or in non-exigent circumstances, a
12 Federal law enforcement officer shall ask the occu-
13 pant if the occupant wants the officer to discontinue
14 use of the officer's body camera. If the occupant re-
15 sponds affirmatively, the Federal law enforcement
16 officer shall immediately discontinue use of the body
17 camera.

18 (2) When interacting with an apparent crime
19 victim, a Federal law enforcement officer shall, as
20 soon as practicable, ask the apparent crime victim if
21 the apparent crime victim wants the officer to dis-
22 continue use of the officer's body camera. If the ap-
23 parent crime victim responds affirmatively, the Fed-
24 eral law enforcement officer shall immediately dis-
25 continue use of the body camera.

1 (3) When interacting with a person seeking to
2 anonymously report a crime or assist in an ongoing
3 law enforcement investigation, a Federal law en-
4 forcement officer shall, as soon as practicable, ask
5 the person seeking to remain anonymous, if the per-
6 son seeking to remain anonymous wants the officer
7 to discontinue use of the officer's body camera. If
8 the person seeking to remain anonymous responds
9 affirmatively, the Federal law enforcement officer
10 shall immediately discontinue use of the body cam-
11 era.

12 (f) RECORDING OF OFFERS TO DISCONTINUE USE
13 OF BODY CAMERA.—Each offer of a Federal law enforce-
14 ment officer to discontinue the use of a body camera made
15 pursuant to subsection (e), and the responses thereto,
16 shall be recorded by the body camera prior to dis-
17 continuing use of the body camera.

18 (g) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF BODY CAMERA.—Body
19 cameras shall not be used to gather intelligence informa-
20 tion based on First Amendment protected speech, associa-
21 tions, or religion, or to record activity that is unrelated
22 to a response to a call for service or a law enforcement
23 or investigative stop between a law enforcement officer
24 and a member of the public, and shall not be equipped

1 with or employ any facial recognition or other biometric
2 surveillance technologies.

3 (h) EXCEPTIONS.—Federal law enforcement offi-
4 cers—

5 (1) shall not be required to use body cameras
6 during investigative or enforcement stops with the
7 public in the case that—

8 (A) recording would risk the safety of a
9 confidential informant, citizen informant, or un-
10 dercover officer;

11 (B) recording would pose a serious risk to
12 national security; or

13 (C) the officer is a military police officer,
14 a member of the United States Army Criminal
15 Investigation Command, or a protective detail
16 assigned to a Federal or foreign official while
17 performing his or her duties; and

18 (2) shall not activate a body camera while on
19 the grounds of any public, private, or parochial ele-
20 mentary or secondary school, except when respond-
21 ing to an imminent threat to life or health.

22 (i) RETENTION OF FOOTAGE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Body camera video footage
24 shall be retained by the law enforcement agency that
25 employs the officer whose camera captured the foot-

1 age, or an authorized agent thereof, for 6 months
2 after the date it was recorded, after which time such
3 footage shall be permanently deleted.

4 (2) RIGHT TO INSPECT.—During the 6-month
5 retention period described in paragraph (1), the fol-
6 lowing persons shall have the right to inspect the
7 body camera footage:

8 (A) Any person who is a subject of body
9 camera video footage, and their designated legal
10 counsel.

11 (B) A parent or legal guardian of a minor
12 subject of body camera video footage, and their
13 designated legal counsel.

14 (C) The spouse, next of kin, or legally au-
15 thorized designee of a deceased subject of body
16 camera video footage, and their designated legal
17 counsel.

18 (D) A Federal law enforcement officer
19 whose body camera recorded the video footage,
20 and their designated legal counsel, subject to
21 the limitations and restrictions in this part.

22 (E) The superior officer of a Federal law
23 enforcement officer whose body camera re-
24 corded the video footage, subject to the limita-
25 tions and restrictions in this part.

1 (F) Any defense counsel who claims, pur-
2 suant to a written affidavit, to have a reason-
3 able basis for believing a video may contain evi-
4 dence that exculpates a client.

5 (3) LIMITATION.—The right to inspect subject
6 to subsection (j)(1) shall not include the right to
7 possess a copy of the body camera video footage, un-
8 less the release of the body camera footage is other-
9 wise authorized by this part or by another applicable
10 law. When a body camera fails to capture some or
11 all of the audio or video of an incident due to mal-
12 function, displacement of camera, or any other
13 cause, any audio or video footage that is captured
14 shall be treated the same as any other body camera
15 audio or video footage under this Act.

16 (j) ADDITIONAL RETENTION REQUIREMENTS.—Not-
17 withstanding the retention and deletion requirements in
18 subsection (i), the following shall apply to body camera
19 video footage under this Act:

20 (1) Body camera video footage shall be auto-
21 matically retained for not less than 3 years if the
22 video footage captures an interaction or event involv-
23 ing—

24 (A) any use of force; or

1 (B) a stop about which a complaint has
2 been registered by a subject of the video foot-
3 age; and

4 (2) Body camera video footage shall be retained
5 for not less than 3 years if a longer retention period
6 is voluntarily requested by—

7 (A) the Federal law enforcement officer
8 whose body camera recorded the video footage,
9 if that officer reasonably asserts the video foot-
10 age has evidentiary or exculpatory value in an
11 ongoing investigation;

12 (B) any Federal law enforcement officer
13 who is a subject of the video footage, if that of-
14 ficer reasonably asserts the video footage has
15 evidentiary or exculpatory value;

16 (C) any superior officer of a Federal law
17 enforcement officer whose body camera re-
18 corded the video footage or who is a subject of
19 the video footage, if that superior officer rea-
20 sonably asserts the video footage has evi-
21 dentiary or exculpatory value;

22 (D) any Federal law enforcement officer, if
23 the video footage is being retained solely and
24 exclusively for police training purposes;

1 (E) any member of the public who is a
2 subject of the video footage;

3 (F) any parent or legal guardian of a
4 minor who is a subject of the video footage; or

5 (G) a deceased subject's spouse, next of
6 kin, or legally authorized designee.

7 (k) PUBLIC REVIEW.—For purposes of subpara-
8 graphs (E), (F), and (G) of subsection (j)(2), any member
9 of the public who is a subject of video footage, the parent
10 or legal guardian of a minor who is a subject of the video
11 footage, or a deceased subject's next of kin or legally au-
12 thorized designee, shall be permitted to review the specific
13 video footage in question in order to make a determination
14 as to whether they will voluntarily request it be subjected
15 to a minimum 3-year retention period.

16 (l) DISCLOSURE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), all video footage of an interaction or
19 event captured by a body camera, if that interaction
20 or event is identified with reasonable specificity and
21 requested by a member of the public, shall be pro-
22 vided to the person or entity making the request in
23 accordance with the procedures for requesting and
24 providing government records set forth in the section
25 552a of title 5, United States Code.

1 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The following categories of
2 video footage shall not be released to the public in
3 the absence of express written permission from the
4 non-law enforcement subjects of the video footage:

5 (A) Video footage not subject to a min-
6 imum 3-year retention period pursuant to sub-
7 section (j).

8 (B) Video footage that is subject to a min-
9 imum 3-year retention period solely and exclu-
10 sively pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) or (2) of
11 subsection (j).

12 (3) PRIORITY OF REQUESTS.—Notwithstanding
13 any time periods established for acknowledging and
14 responding to records requests in section 552a of
15 title 5, United States Code, responses to requests for
16 video footage that is subject to a minimum 3-year
17 retention period pursuant to subsection (j)(1)(A),
18 where a subject of the video footage is recorded
19 being killed, shot by a firearm, or grievously injured,
20 shall be prioritized and, if approved, the requested
21 video footage shall be provided as expeditiously as
22 possible, but in no circumstances later than 5 days
23 following receipt of the request.

24 (4) USE OF REDACTION TECHNOLOGY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever doing so is
2 necessary to protect personal privacy, the right
3 to a fair trial, the identity of a confidential
4 source or crime victim, or the life or physical
5 safety of any person appearing in video footage,
6 redaction technology may be used to obscure
7 the face and other personally identifying char-
8 acteristics of that person, including the tone of
9 the person’s voice, provided the redaction does
10 not interfere with a viewer’s ability to fully,
11 completely, and accurately comprehend the
12 events captured on the video footage.

13 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The following re-
14 quirements shall apply to redactions under sub-
15 paragraph (A):

16 (i) When redaction is performed on
17 video footage pursuant to this paragraph,
18 an unedited, original version of the video
19 footage shall be retained pursuant to the
20 requirements of subsections (i) and (j).

21 (ii) Except pursuant to the rules for
22 the redaction of video footage set forth in
23 this subsection or where it is otherwise ex-
24 pressly authorized by this Act, no other ed-
25 iting or alteration of video footage, includ-

1 ing a reduction of the video footage’s reso-
2 lution, shall be permitted.

3 (m) PROHIBITED WITHHOLDING OF FOOTAGE.—
4 Body camera video footage may not be withheld from the
5 public on the basis that it is an investigatory record or
6 was compiled for law enforcement purposes where any per-
7 son under investigation or whose conduct is under review
8 is a police officer or other law enforcement employee and
9 the video footage relates to that person’s conduct in their
10 official capacity.

11 (n) ADMISSIBILITY.—Any video footage retained be-
12 yond 6 months solely and exclusively pursuant to sub-
13 section (j)(2)(D) shall not be admissible as evidence in any
14 criminal or civil legal or administrative proceeding.

15 (o) CONFIDENTIALITY.—No government agency or
16 official, or law enforcement agency, officer, or official may
17 publicly disclose, release, or share body camera video foot-
18 age unless—

19 (1) doing so is expressly authorized pursuant to
20 this Act or another applicable law; or

21 (2) the video footage is subject to public release
22 pursuant to subsection (l), and not exempted from
23 public release pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

24 (p) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
25 OFFICER VIEWING OF BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE.—No

1 Federal law enforcement officer shall review or receive an
2 accounting of any body camera video footage that is sub-
3 ject to a minimum 3-year retention period pursuant to
4 subsection (j)(1) prior to completing any required initial
5 reports, statements, and interviews regarding the recorded
6 event, unless doing so is necessary, while in the field, to
7 address an immediate threat to life or safety.

8 (q) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—Video footage may
9 not be—

10 (1) in the case of footage that is not subject to
11 a minimum 3-year retention period, viewed by any
12 superior officer of a Federal law enforcement officer
13 whose body camera recorded the footage absent a
14 specific allegation of misconduct; or

15 (2) divulged or used by any law enforcement
16 agency for any commercial or other non-law enforce-
17 ment purpose.

18 (r) THIRD-PARTY MAINTENANCE OF FOOTAGE.—
19 Where a law enforcement agency authorizes a third party
20 to act as its agent in maintaining body camera footage,
21 the agent shall not be permitted to independently access,
22 view, or alter any video footage, except to delete videos
23 as required by law or agency retention policies.

24 (s) ENFORCEMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—If any Federal law enforce-
2 ment officer, or any employee or agent of a Federal
3 law enforcement agency fails to adhere to the re-
4 cording or retention requirements contained in this
5 Act, intentionally interferes with a body camera’s
6 ability to accurately capture video footage, or other-
7 wise manipulates the video footage captured by a
8 body camera during or after its operation—

9 (A) appropriate disciplinary action shall be
10 taken against the individual officer, employee,
11 or agent;

12 (B) a rebuttable evidentiary presumption
13 shall be adopted in favor of a criminal defend-
14 ant who reasonably asserts that exculpatory evi-
15 dence was destroyed or not captured; and

16 (C) a rebuttable evidentiary presumption
17 shall be adopted on behalf of a civil plaintiff
18 suing the Government, a Federal law enforce-
19 ment agency, or a Federal law enforcement offi-
20 cer for damages based on misconduct who rea-
21 sonably asserts that evidence supporting their
22 claim was destroyed or not captured.

23 (2) PROOF COMPLIANCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE.—
24 The disciplinary action requirement and rebuttable
25 presumptions described in paragraph (1) may be

1 overcome by contrary evidence or proof of exigent
2 circumstances that made compliance impossible.

3 (t) USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATIONS.—In the case
4 that a Federal law enforcement officer equipped with a
5 body camera is involved in, a witness to, or within viewable
6 sight range of either the use of force by another law en-
7 forcement officer that results in a death, the use of force
8 by another law enforcement officer, during which the dis-
9 charge of a firearm results in an injury, or the conduct
10 of another law enforcement officer that becomes the sub-
11 ject of a criminal investigation—

12 (1) the law enforcement agency that employs
13 the law enforcement officer, or the agency or depart-
14 ment conducting the related criminal investigation,
15 as appropriate, shall promptly take possession of the
16 body camera, and shall maintain such camera, and
17 any data on such camera, in accordance with the ap-
18 plicable rules governing the preservation of evidence;

19 (2) a copy of the data on such body camera
20 shall be made in accordance with prevailing forensic
21 standards for data collection and reproduction; and

22 (3) such copied data shall be made available to
23 the public in accordance with subsection (l).

24 (u) LIMITATION ON USE OF FOOTAGE AS EVI-
25 DENCE.—Any body camera video footage recorded by a

1 Federal law enforcement officer that violates this Act or
2 any other applicable law may not be offered as evidence
3 by any government entity, agency, department, prosecu-
4 torial office, or any other subdivision thereof in any crimi-
5 nal or civil action or proceeding against any member of
6 the public.

7 (v) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY POLICIES.—Any Fed-
8 eral law enforcement agency policy or other guidance re-
9 garding body cameras, their use, or the video footage
10 therefrom that is adopted by a Federal agency or depart-
11 ment, shall be made publicly available on that agency’s
12 website.

13 (w) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
14 shall be construed to preempt any laws governing the
15 maintenance, production, and destruction of evidence in
16 criminal investigations and prosecutions.

17 **SEC. 3. PATROL VEHICLES WITH IN-CAR VIDEO RECORDING**
18 **CAMERAS.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) AUDIO RECORDING.—The term “audio re-
21 cording” means the recorded conversation between a
22 Federal law enforcement officer and a second party.

23 (2) EMERGENCY LIGHTS.—The term “emer-
24 gency lights” means oscillating, rotating, or flashing
25 lights on patrol vehicles.

1 (3) ENFORCEMENT OR INVESTIGATIVE STOP.—

2 The term “enforcement or investigative stop” means
3 an action by a Federal law enforcement officer in re-
4 lation to enforcement and investigation duties, in-
5 cluding traffic stops, pedestrian stops, abandoned
6 vehicle contacts, motorist assists, commercial motor
7 vehicle stops, roadside safety checks, requests for
8 identification, or responses to requests for emer-
9 gency assistance.

10 (4) IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERA.—The term “in-car
11 video camera” means a video camera located in a
12 patrol vehicle.

13 (5) IN-CAR VIDEO CAMERA RECORDING EQUIP-
14 MENT.—The term “in-car video camera recording
15 equipment” means a video camera recording system
16 located in a patrol vehicle consisting of a camera as-
17 sembly, recording mechanism, and an in-car video
18 recording medium.

19 (6) RECORDING.—The term “recording” means
20 the process of capturing data or information stored
21 on a recording medium as required under this sec-
22 tion.

23 (7) RECORDING MEDIUM.—The term “record-
24 ing medium” means any recording medium for the
25 retention and playback of recorded audio and video

1 including VHS, DVD, hard drive, solid state, digital,
2 or flash memory technology.

3 (8) WIRELESS MICROPHONE.—The term “wire-
4 less microphone” means a device worn by a Federal
5 law enforcement officer or any other equipment used
6 to record conversations between the officer and a
7 second party and transmitted to the recording equip-
8 ment.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal law enforce-
11 ment agency shall install in-car video camera record-
12 ing equipment in all patrol vehicles with a recording
13 medium capable of recording for a period of 10
14 hours or more and capable of making audio record-
15 ings with the assistance of a wireless microphone.

16 (2) RECORDING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—
17 In-car video camera recording equipment with a re-
18 cording medium capable of recording for a period of
19 10 hours or more shall record activities—

20 (A) whenever a patrol vehicle is assigned
21 to patrol duty;

22 (B) outside a patrol vehicle whenever—

23 (i) a Federal law enforcement officer
24 assigned that patrol vehicle is conducting
25 an enforcement or investigative stop;

(ii) patrol vehicle emergency lights are activated or would otherwise be activated if not for the need to conceal the presence of law enforcement; or

(iii) an officer reasonably believes recording may assist with prosecution, enhance safety, or for any other lawful purpose; and

(C) inside the vehicle when transporting an arrestee or when an officer reasonably believes recording may assist with prosecution, enhance safety, or for any other lawful purpose.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal law enforcement officer shall begin recording for an enforcement or investigative stop when the officer determines an enforcement stop is necessary and shall continue until the enforcement action has been completed and the subject of the enforcement or investigative stop or the officer has left the scene.

(B) ACTIVATION WITH LIGHTS.—A Federal law enforcement officer shall begin recording when patrol vehicle emergency lights are activated or when they would otherwise be acti-

1 vated if not for the need to conceal the presence
2 of law enforcement, and shall continue until the
3 reason for the activation ceases to exist, regard-
4 less of whether the emergency lights are no
5 longer activated.

6 (C) PERMISSIBLE RECORDING.—A Federal
7 law enforcement officer may begin recording if
8 the officer reasonably believes recording may
9 assist with prosecution, enhance safety, or for
10 any other lawful purpose; and shall continue
11 until the reason for recording ceases to exist.

12 (4) ENFORCEMENT OR INVESTIGATIVE
13 STOPS.—A Federal law enforcement officer shall
14 record any enforcement or investigative stop. Audio
15 recording shall terminate upon release of the violator
16 and prior to initiating a separate criminal investiga-
17 tion.

18 (c) RETENTION OF RECORDINGS.—Recordings made
19 on in-car video camera recording medium shall be retained
20 for a storage period of at least 90 days. Under no cir-
21 cumstances shall any recording made on in-car video cam-
22 era recording medium be altered or erased prior to the
23 expiration of the designated storage period. Upon comple-
24 tion of the storage period, the recording medium may be
25 erased and reissued for operational use unless otherwise

1 ordered or if designated for evidentiary or training pur-
2 poses.

3 (d) ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDINGS.—Audio or video
4 recordings made pursuant to this section shall be available
5 under the applicable provisions of section 552a of title 5,
6 United States Code. Only recorded portions of the audio
7 recording or video recording medium applicable to the re-
8 quest will be available for inspection or copying.

9 (e) MAINTENANCE REQUIRED.—The agency shall en-
10 sure proper care and maintenance of in-car video camera
11 recording equipment and recording medium. An officer op-
12 erating a patrol vehicle must immediately document and
13 notify the appropriate person of any technical difficulties,
14 failures, or problems with the in-car video camera record-
15 ing equipment or recording medium. Upon receiving no-
16 tice, every reasonable effort shall be made to correct and
17 repair any of the in-car video camera recording equipment
18 or recording medium and determine if it is in the public
19 interest to permit the use of the patrol vehicle.

20 **SEC. 4. FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY.**

21 No camera or recording device authorized or required
22 to be used under this Act may employ facial recognition
23 or other biometric surveillance technology. “Used” for
24 purposes of this prohibition includes the use of a facial
25 recognition or other biometric surveillance system in real-

1 time or on a recording, or making a request or entering
2 into an agreement for another law enforcement agency or
3 other third party to use a facial recognition or other bio-
4 metric surveillance system on behalf of the requesting offi-
5 cer or agency.

6 **SEC. 5. GAO STUDY.**

7 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
9 shall conduct a study on Federal law enforcement officer
10 training, vehicle pursuits, use of force, and interaction
11 with citizens, and submit a report on such study to—

12 (1) the Committees on the Judiciary of the
13 House of Representatives and of the Senate;

14 (2) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of
15 the House of Representatives; and

16 (3) the Committee on Homeland Security and
17 Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

18 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

19 Not later than 6 months after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue such
21 final regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impose any
3 requirement on a Federal law enforcement officer outside
4 of the course of carrying out that officer's duty.

