



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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2017

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #235

Body-Worn Cameras in Restrictive Housing (Corrections -- Adult Corrections)

[LFB 2017-19 Budget Summary: Page 141, #11]

GOVERNOR

Provide funding of \$264,700 GPR annually, plus one-time funding of \$62,000 GPR in 2017-18 to purchase body-worn cameras for correctional officers working in restrictive housing units at the Department Corrections' maximum security prisons, Columbia, Dodge, Green Bay, Taycheedah, Waupun, and Wisconsin Secure Program Facility.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The bill would provide funding for body-worn cameras for correctional officers working in maximum security restrictive housing units. Funding assumptions in the bill include: (a) 269 cameras at an annual cost of \$984 per camera for licenses plan and warranty; (b) 47 new docking stations to charge the cameras (six cameras per station), \$1,000 per docking station (one-time cost in 2017-18); and (c) a \$2,500 installation charge to install hardware at each of the six sites (one-time cost in 2017-18). Actual costs could change depending on the procurement process.

2. Estimated costs are based on the Department's current body-worn camera contract for its juvenile facilities. Since December, 2015, youth counselors and supervisors wear body-worn cameras. According to departmental policy, the purpose of the cameras is "to record interactions with youth or gather video evidence for the purpose of staff and youth accountability." Data collected by the camera is uploaded to a website for Corrections' management to review in case of incidents and/or complaints.

3. Under its policy, staff must activate their body camera in certain situations, including:

- a. Whenever out of the living unit control booth interacting with youth;
 - b. When responding to any type of institution emergency;
 - c. During any staff-assisted strip search (during this type of search the staff member wearing the camera will not conduct the search. A staff of the same gender as the youth will conduct the search while another staff wearing a body camera is out of sight of the youth but in sight of and observing the staff member conducting the search);
 - d. When entering a general population or residential housing unit hallway;
 - e. Anytime a staff member has physical contact with a youth (escorting, applying mechanical restraints, responding to emergencies, restraining a disruptive youth and/or dealing with a verbally disruptive youth, etc.);
 - f. If a body camera is not activated in any of these situations, an incident report must be completed by the staff member who did not activate the camera. The superintendent or designee will review the report for possible disciplinary actions.
4. Protocols staff must follow when recording interactions with youth include:
- a. Staff must activate the body camera by pressing the button to activate. The camera will continue to collect data until the completion of the incident, when the staff member shuts off the camera (the camera must not be turned off until an interaction with the youth is resolved or the scene is cleared by the shift supervisor);
 - b. The body camera must stay activated even when other means of video recording are present;
 - c. At the start of each shift, staff utilizing a body camera must register with Evidence.com and ensure they are logged into a camera at the beginning of their shift;
 - d. Staff must return the camera to a shift supervisor or docking station at the end of their shift.
5. The Department's policy prohibits other staff from viewing each other's recorded data. While a staff member can review their own data, only a system administrator has access to delete any footage. Whenever possible, staff will ensure that youth are aware their actions are being recording. If a staff member is involved in an incident, they are required to complete an incident report, a youth conduct report, and any other report mandated by the Department.
6. The Department indicates similar policies will be drafted for correctional officers working in the adult prisons' restrictive housing units.
7. The National Council on State Legislatures cites research showing a significant decline in use-of-force incidents and citizen complaints against law enforcement when police were equipped with cameras. However, similar research related to the effectiveness of body-worn

cameras in correctional settings is not widely available. In 2013-14, Corrections operated a six-month pilot program where correctional officers used body-worn cameras at the Waupun Correctional Institution's restrictive housing unit. During the pilot, nine staff assaults were reported, in comparison to 19 staff assaults from the same period in the prior year.

8. Given the Department's results of reduced assaults, the Committee may wish to approve the provision. Funding in the bill would support enough cameras (269) for each correctional officer on all three shifts. The Committee could approve the provision, or modify funding to provide a lesser amount. To the extent less funding is provided, not all correctional officers would have a body-worn camera while on shift. The following table identifies the locations and number of cameras that would be provided at each prison under the bill, as well as reduced funding alternatives . [Alternatives 2a and 2b]

<u>Governor's Recommendation</u>			<u>Alternative 2 (50% Funding)</u>				<u>Alternative 3 (25% Funding)</u>			
<u>Institution</u>	<u>Cameras</u>	<u>Biennial Amount</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Cameras</u>	<u>Biennial Amount</u>	<u>Difference from Bill</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Cameras</u>	<u>Biennial Amount</u>	<u>Difference from Bill</u>
Columbia	51	\$111,900	Columbia	25	\$56,700	-\$55,200	Columbia	13	\$31,100	-\$80,800
Dodge	20	45,900	Dodge	10	24,200	-21,700	Dodge	5	13,300	-32,600
Green Bay	31	69,500	Green Bay	17	39,000	-30,500	Green Bay	9	22,200	-47,300
Taycheedah	42	92,200	Taycheedah	21	47,800	-44,400	Taycheedah	11	26,100	-66,100
Waupun	95	205,500	Waupun	47	103,000	-102,500	Waupun	24	53,700	-151,800
WSPF	<u>30</u>	<u>66,500</u>	WSPF	<u>15</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-31,500</u>	WSPF	<u>8</u>	<u>20,200</u>	<u>-46,300</u>
Total	269	\$591,400	Total	135	\$305,800	-\$285,600	Total	70	\$166,600	-\$424,900

9. While the Department utilizes body-worn cameras in the juvenile correctional setting and has piloted such devices in the adult correctional setting, funding for additional devices was not requested by the Department in its 2017-19 budget request. Therefore, one could question the Department's need for increased funding. As such funding could be deleted. [Alternative 3]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide funding of \$264,700 GPR annually, plus one-time funding of \$62,000 GPR in 2017-18 to purchase body-worn cameras for correctional officers working in restrictive housing units at the Department Corrections' maximum security prisons.

ALT 1	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$591,400	\$0

2. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide funding for body-worn cameras, but at one of the lesser amounts:

- a. For the purchase of 135 body-worn cameras.

ALT 2a	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$305,800	- \$285,600

- b. For the purchase of 70 body-worn cameras.

ALT 2b	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$166,600	- \$424,900

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$0	- \$591,400

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