

HOUSE BILL 713: Body & Dash Cam Recording/Public Access

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Judiciary I Date: April 23, 2015

Introduced by: Reps. Faircloth, Daughtry, Boles, Hurley Prepared by: R. Erika Churchill and

Analysis of: Second Edition Jennifer Bedford, Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: House Bill 713 would specify that criminal information derived from body-worn cameras and in-car cameras of law enforcement officers is not a public record and sets out provisions for requested recordings.

CURRENT LAW: Records of criminal investigations conducted by law enforcement are not public record.. "Records of criminal investigation" mean information derived from witnesses, laboratory tests, surveillance, investigators, confidential informants, photographs, and measurements. Presently, recordings form body-worn and in-car cameras are not listed.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill would specify that recordings from body-worn cameras or in-car cameras of law enforcement officers to the definition of "records of criminal investigations," which are not public records. The bill would also specify that the recordings are not part of the officer or officers involved in the body-worn or in-car cameras are not part of that officer's personnel record, and may be released by the law enforcement agency without the consent of that officer.

The bill would require a person seeking a court order to access to recordings of law enforcement officer's body-worn cameras and in-car cameras to specify the portion of the recording containing the requested information, including date and approximate time of the incident that was recorded. However, nothing would require law enforcement agencies to allow inspection, examination, or release of recordings captured by body-worn cameras or in-car cameras. Federal law governing access to these types of recordings would not be superceded.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division (919) 733-2578