OLR Bill Analysis sHB 7073 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE OFFICER REVIEW OF CERTAIN RECORDINGS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes about when police officers may review recordings from body-worn (e.g., body camera) or dashboard camera recording equipment, including requiring that recordings must be disclosed to the public regardless of the status of any disciplinary investigation no later than 96 hours after a request for the public disclosure. It also makes other changes regarding the public disclosure of such recordings.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

*<u>House Amendment "A"</u> replaces the underlying bill (File 405). The amendment makes changes about (1) when a police officer may view recordings from body or dashboard cameras and (2) the public disclosure of such recordings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

Officer Review of Recordings

Under current law, a police officer can review recordings from their body-worn recording equipment or dashboard camera (1) when they are preparing a report and (2) to generally assist them in the performance of their duties.

Under current law, if a police officer is giving a formal statement about the use of force or if the police officer is subject to a disciplinary investigation where a recording is being considered as part of the investigation, the officer has the right to review a recording from their body-worn recording equipment or dashboard camera with their attorney or labor representative present and review other recordings from body-worn recording equipment capturing the officer's image or voice during the incident.

The bill narrows the right to review the recordings in the presence of an attorney or labor representative to only officers giving a formal statement about the use of force, and specifies that it applies when the use of force was captured in a recording from body-worn recording equipment or a dashboard camera.

Disclosure of Body and Dashboard Camera Recordings to the Public

Under current law, if a body camera or dashboard camera captures a use of force event, the recording must be publicly disclosed no later than 48 hours after the officer, if making a formal statement, reviews the recording, or 96 hours after the initiation of a disciplinary investigation if the officer does not review the recording, whichever is earlier.

Under the bill, the recording must be disclosed to the public (regardless of the status of any disciplinary investigation) no later than 96 hours after a request is made for the public disclosure of the recording.

Additionally, under current law, if a request is made to publicly disclose a recording of an incident about which (1) an officer has not been asked to give a formal statement about a use of force or (2) no disciplinary investigation has been initiated, the bill allows any police officer whose voice or image is captured on the recording to review it in the presence of their attorney or union representative before the disclosure.

Instead, the bill specifies that it applies only if a recording is requested for public disclosure that allegedly captured a use of force event, and a police officer has not been asked to give a formal statement about the alleged event.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)