



Body Cameras

The use of body cameras pose unique privacy concerns which should be addressed by the Legislature to ensure consistency of use throughout the state and provide protections to citizens who appear in body camera recordings. HB 93 and SB 418 were filed to address these issues. These bills are of vital importance to law enforcement agencies as they begin to create policies and procedures and equip officers with body cameras. Body cameras will do a great deal of good by helping to strengthen accountability and transparency, reduce community complaints, and assist in de-escalating conflicts. Without the passage of these bills, it will be difficult for law enforcement agencies to effectively implement the use of body cameras.

HB 93 and SB 418 create uniform procedural requirements for the use of body cameras by law enforcement agencies. These statewide standards and guidelines ensure agencies' policies address storage, maintenance, and proper use, in addition to requiring law enforcement officers to receive proper training. Most importantly, this bill will provide exemption for body cameras from ch. 934, which makes it a felony to record oral communication without a person's consent. An exemption to this statute is fundamental to the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers because without it the officer could face criminal felonies.

The Florida Sheriffs Association supports the use of technology to enhance public safety. Body cameras, like dashboard cameras in patrol vehicles, are tools that when used appropriately can improve the quality of law enforcement and relationships with the community. FSA supports the right of each sheriff and their community to engage in discussions regarding the benefits and disadvantages of the use of these cameras and to make decisions they are comfortable with and can support financially.

**Support HB 93 by Representative Jones and
SB 418 by Senator Smith**

