

By: Jetton, Sherman, Sr., et al.

H.B. No. 1938

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a grant program for law enforcement agencies to defray  
3 the cost of data storage for recordings created with body worn  
4 cameras.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter N, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 1701.6521 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 1701.6521. GRANTS FOR BODY WORN CAMERA DATA STORAGE.

9 (a) A law enforcement agency in this state that provides body worn  
10 cameras to its peace officers may apply to the office of the  
11 governor for a grant to defray the cost of data storage for  
12 recordings created with the body worn cameras.

13 (b) The grant program established by this section may be  
14 funded by federal funds or by gifts, grants, and donations.

15 SECTION 2. Sections 1701.658(a), (b), and (c), Occupations  
16 Code, are amended to read as follows:

17 (a) If a law enforcement agency receives a grant under  
18 Section 1701.652 [~~this subchapter~~], a peace officer who is employed  
19 by the agency and who is on duty may only use a body worn camera that  
20 is issued and maintained by that agency.

21 (b) Notwithstanding any previous policies, an agency may  
22 not allow its peace officers to use privately owned body worn  
23 cameras after receiving a grant described by this section [~~under~~  
24 ~~this subchapter~~].

1           (c) A peace officer who is employed by a law enforcement  
2 agency that has not received a grant described by this section or  
3 who has not otherwise been provided with a body worn camera by the  
4 agency that employs the officer may operate a body worn camera that  
5 is privately owned only if permitted by the employing agency.

6           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.