

By: Wu

H.R. No. 1349

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Across the nation, law enforcement agencies are
2 employing body-worn camera systems to promote even greater
3 transparency in the interactions between police officers and the
4 public and to ensure procedural justice; in many cases, however,
5 guidelines have not been fully developed to consider privacy and
6 security concerns caused by the use of cameras; and

7 WHEREAS, Body cameras have been shown to enhance officer
8 professionalism and to dramatically decrease use-of-force
9 incidents; moreover, the technology has helped agencies in
10 evaluating officer performance and in developing training tools for
11 tactics, communication, and customer service, resulting in fewer
12 public complaints filed against police departments; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to advancing policing practices, body
14 cameras have proven to be invaluable resources in investigations
15 and court proceedings by providing video evidence of unlawful
16 activity and crime scenes and footage of victim statements; and

17 WHEREAS, While body cameras benefit myriad aspects of our
18 justice system, it is incumbent on law enforcement agencies to
19 implement policies that safeguard the rights of officers and
20 citizens alike; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
22 Legislature hereby request the speaker of the house to create an
23 interim committee to study issues relating to police body camera
24 equipment, including network and equipment security, records

1 retention, preservation, and privacy rights; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including

3 its findings and recommendations, to the House of Representatives

4 of the 85th Texas Legislature before it convenes in January 2017.