

1-1 By: Jetton, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Kolkhorst) H.B. No. 1938  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;  
1-3 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Jurisprudence; May 21, 2021, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 21, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to a grant program for law enforcement agencies to defray  
1-16 the cost of data storage for recordings created with body worn  
1-17 cameras.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Subchapter N, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
1-20 amended by adding Section 1701.6521 to read as follows:

1-21 Sec. 1701.6521. GRANTS FOR BODY WORN CAMERA DATA STORAGE.

1-22 (a) A law enforcement agency in this state that provides body worn  
1-23 cameras to its peace officers may apply to the office of the  
1-24 governor for a grant to defray the cost of data storage for  
1-25 recordings created with the body worn cameras.

1-26 (b) The grant program established by this section may be  
1-27 funded by federal funds or by gifts, grants, and donations.

1-28 SECTION 2. Sections 1701.658(a), (b), and (c), Occupations  
1-29 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-30 (a) If a law enforcement agency receives a grant under  
1-31 Section 1701.652 [~~this subchapter~~], a peace officer who is employed  
1-32 by the agency and who is on duty may only use a body worn camera that  
1-33 is issued and maintained by that agency.

1-34 (b) Notwithstanding any previous policies, an agency may  
1-35 not allow its peace officers to use privately owned body worn  
1-36 cameras after receiving a grant described by this section [~~under~~  
1-37 ~~this subchapter~~].

1-38 (c) A peace officer who is employed by a law enforcement  
1-39 agency that has not received a grant described by this section or  
1-40 who has not otherwise been provided with a body worn camera by the  
1-41 agency that employs the officer may operate a body worn camera that  
1-42 is privately owned only if permitted by the employing agency.

1-43 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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