

2017 Regular Session

**Approved
5-10-17**

HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Requests the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice to study and make recommendations concerning the use of body worn cameras by law enforcement agencies in this state

1 A STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee
3 thereof, to study and make recommendations for legislation on the use of body worn
4 cameras and policies for access to and use of body worn camera recordings by law
5 enforcement officers in this state and to report its findings to the House of
6 Representatives prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session.

7 WHEREAS, in order to safeguard the public and peace officers of this state, it is vital
8 for peace officers and the communities they protect to have strong, collaborative
9 relationships; and

10 WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement agencies and the citizens they serve is
11 essential to the stability of communities, the integrity of the criminal justice system, and the
12 safe and effective delivery of public safety services; and

13 WHEREAS, the implementation of the use of body worn cameras by all law
14 enforcement agencies may assist in preventing and resolving complaints brought by
15 members of the public against peace officers, may strengthen law enforcement transparency,
16 performance, and accountability, and may improve the documentation of evidence; and

17 WHEREAS, the use of video footage may discourage citizens from filing unfounded
18 complaints against officers, which could save the agencies a significant amount of resources
19 that would otherwise be spent on lengthy investigations and lawsuits; and

1 WHEREAS, body worn cameras may assist law enforcement agencies in identifying
2 and correcting problems within those agencies by using footage from the cameras to provide
3 scenario-based training, evaluate the performance of new officers in the field, and identify
4 new areas in which training may be needed; and

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Law Enforcement Body Camera Task Force was
6 originally created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 180 of the 2015 Regular Session and
7 was re-created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 59 of the 2016 Regular Session to
8 continue its work; and

9 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 59 directed the Task Force to study
10 and make recommendations regarding the requirements for implementation and development
11 of best procedures for the use of the body worn cameras and policies for access to and the
12 use of body worn camera recordings by law enforcement agencies in this state and that the
13 recommendations address the following issues:

14 (1) General guidelines for the proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras,
15 which shall include recommendations on procedures for when the body camera shall be in
16 recording mode.

17 (2) Any limitations on the situations in which peace officers are permitted to wear
18 body cameras.

19 (3) General guidelines for the proper storage, retention, and release of audio and
20 video data recorded by body cameras.

21 (4) General guidelines regarding the law enforcement training relative to each law
22 enforcement agency's policies and procedures on the use of body cameras.

23 (5) Legislation needed, if any, to authorize the use of body cameras by peace officers
24 in this state; and

25 WHEREAS, the Task Force met on December 9, 2015, September 22, 2016, October
26 27, 2016, and December 15, 2016, to study and discuss the requirements for implementation
27 of best procedures for the use of body cameras and access to body camera recordings; and

28 WHEREAS, the Task Force was unable to reach a consensus on body worn camera
29 guidelines and thus did not submit recommendations prior to the 2017 Regular Session of
30 the Legislature of Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, the Task Force requested additional time and legislation to continue its
2 study of body worn cameras implementation and access to and the use of body worn camera
3 recordings in Louisiana.

4 THEREFORE, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request
5 the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof,
6 to meet and function as a joint legislative committee to study and make recommendations
7 for legislation on the use of body worn cameras and rules for access to and use of body
8 camera recordings by law enforcement agencies in this state and submit its finding to the
9 House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session of the
10 Legislature.

11 THEREFORE, in undertaking the study, the House Committee on the Administration
12 of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, may seek input from various agencies and
13 organizations and may request research, documents, or data, conduct public hearings, and
14 take any other actions it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HSR 1 Original

2017 Regular Session

Marcelle

Requests the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to study and make recommendations for legislation with respect to the requirements for implementation and development of best procedures for the use of body worn cameras and policies for access to and use of body camera recordings by law enforcement in this state and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session.