

HOUSE BILL 712

By Gilmore

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
relative to body cameras for law enforcement
officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) A law enforcement officer shall, at all times when the officer is on duty, wear a wide angle body camera that shall record video footage of the officer's activities.

(b) No video recording made under this section may be duplicated and made available to the public by a law enforcement agency until final disposition of any criminal charges that arise from the event or events that were recorded. If the video recording does not contain evidence of a crime, the video recording shall be treated as any other law enforcement document for the purpose of confidentiality.

(c) Video recordings shall not be divulged or used by any law enforcement agency for any commercial purpose.

(d) Video footage from the camera shall be maintained by the law enforcement agency that employs the officer for at least seven (7) days, and shall not be destroyed if the video footage contains evidence that may be used in the investigation of a crime or complaint against an officer.

(e) The cost of implementing this section shall be paid only by grants, private donations, or federal funding. If grants, private donations, and federal funding are not available to a law enforcement agency for such purpose, this section shall not apply to that agency.

(f) As used in this section, “law enforcement officer” means any person authorized to effectuate an arrest who is employed by the state, or a county, municipality, or metropolitan form of government.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.