

SENATE, No. 3191

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton, Sarlo, Gopal and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$30,000,000 to certain law enforcement agencies for NJ Statewide Supplemental Body Worn Camera Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/28/2021)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,
2 P.L.2020, c.97.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

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7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,
8 there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for
9 the purpose specified:

10

66 DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

10 Public Safety and Criminal Justice

12 Law Enforcement

GRANTS-IN-AID

09-1020 Criminal Justice	\$30,000,000
Total Grants-in-Aid Appropriation,	
Criminal Justice	\$30,000,000

Grants-in-Aid:

09 NJ Statewide Supplemental Body Worn (\$30,000,000)
Camera Program

11

12 The amount appropriated herein for the NJ Statewide Supplemental
13 Body Worn Camera Program shall provide funding for the
14 purpose of supporting law enforcement departments with
15 existing body worn camera programs implemented prior to the
16 effective date of P.L. c. (pending before the legislature as
17 Senate Bill No. 101 or Assembly Bill No. 4312 of 2020). Any
18 unexpended balance at the end of the 2021 fiscal year is to be
19 carried forward and appropriated for the same purpose.

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21 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
22 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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27 This supplemental appropriation would appropriate \$30,000,000
28 to the Department of Law and Public Safety toward Grants-in-Aid
29 to establish a New Jersey Supplemental Statewide Body Worn
30 Camera (BWC) program to support certain law enforcement
31 departments.

32 Specifically, this grant program will provide funding to law
33 enforcement departments which have implemented BWC initiatives
34 prior to the effective date of P.L. c. (pending before the
35 legislature as Senate Bill No. 101 or Assembly Bill No. 4312 of
36 2020).

37 BWC's consist of a mobile video recording system worn by a
38 law enforcement officer. Due to ongoing incidents between police

1 and communities nationwide, many law enforcement agencies
2 throughout the State have purchased BWC equipment for law
3 enforcement officers to ensure accurate documentation of both the
4 citizen and the officer during an interaction. According to a recent
5 survey conducted by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney
6 General, there are a total of 239 State, county, and municipal
7 agencies which have a BWC program with a total of 12,195 BWC's
8 deployed.

9 The cost for BWC equipment varies; however, the cost includes
10 not only the initial purchase of the equipment, but also includes
11 maintenance, data storage, oversight, and replacement due to wear
12 and tear. Many law enforcement departments are experiencing the
13 financial strain of continuing the BWC programs during the
14 COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will support those departments
15 maintaining the practice of using the BWCs.