

By Senator Taddeo

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Lowell Correctional Institution
3 Body Cameras Pilot Program; creating s. 944.145, F.S.;
4 creating the Lowell Correctional Institution Body
5 Cameras Pilot Program within the Department of
6 Corrections; providing the purpose of the pilot
7 program; defining terms; requiring that each
8 correctional officer working at the Lowell
9 Correctional Institution wear a body camera while
10 acting within the scope of his or her official duties;
11 requiring the department to establish policies and
12 procedures for the proper use, maintenance, and
13 storage of such body cameras and data recorded by such
14 body cameras; providing minimum requirements for such
15 policies and procedures; requiring the department to
16 provide training for the wear, use, maintenance, and
17 storage of body cameras; requiring the audio and video
18 data recorded by such cameras to be maintained in
19 accordance with public records laws; requiring the
20 department to submit annual reports beginning on a
21 certain date; providing report requirements; providing
22 for expiration of the pilot program; providing an
23 effective date.

24
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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27 Section 1. Section 944.145, Florida Statutes, is created to
28 read:

29 944.145 Lowell Correctional Institution Body Cameras Pilot

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30 Program.

31 (1) The Lowell Correctional Institution Body Cameras Pilot
32 Program is created within the department for 3 years. The
33 purpose of the pilot program is to ensure safety and provide
34 accountability for each person in the institution.

35 (2) As used in this section, the term:

36 (a) "Body camera" means a portable electronic recording
37 device that is worn on a correctional officer's person and that
38 records audio and video data of the officer's prisoner-related
39 encounters and activities.

40 (b) "Correctional officer" has the same meaning as in s.
41 943.10(2).

42 (3) Each correctional officer working at the Lowell
43 Correctional Institution shall wear a body camera while acting
44 within the scope of his or her official duties. The department
45 shall establish policies and procedures addressing the proper
46 use, maintenance, and storage of such body cameras and the data
47 recorded by such body cameras. The policies and procedures must,
48 at a minimum, include all of the following:

49 (a) General guidelines for the proper use, maintenance, and
50 storage of body cameras.

51 (b) Any limitations on a correctional officer's use of the
52 body cameras.

53 (c) Any limitations on prisoner-related encounters and
54 activities in which correctional officers are authorized to wear
55 body cameras.

56 (d) A provision allowing a correctional officer using a
57 body camera to review the recorded footage from the body camera,
58 upon his or her own initiative or request, before writing a

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59 report or providing a statement regarding any event arising
60 within the scope of his or her official duties. Any such
61 provision may not apply to an officer's inherent duty to
62 immediately disclose information necessary to secure an active
63 crime scene or to identify suspects or witnesses.

64 (e) General guidelines for the proper storage, retention,
65 and release of audio and video data recorded by body cameras.

66 (4) The department shall:

67 (a) Ensure that all personnel at the Lowell Correctional
68 Institution who wear, use, maintain, or store body cameras are
69 trained in the department's policies and procedures concerning
70 the body cameras.

71 (b) Ensure that all personnel at the Lowell Correctional
72 Institution who use, maintain, store, or release audio or video
73 data recorded by body cameras are trained in the department's
74 policies and procedures.

75 (c) Retain audio and video data recorded by body cameras in
76 accordance with the requirements of s. 119.021, except as
77 otherwise provided by law.

78 (d) Perform a periodic review of actual agency body camera
79 practices to ensure conformity with the agency's policies and
80 procedures.

81 (5) Beginning on June 30, 2022, and annually thereafter,
82 the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the
83 President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the
84 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader
85 of the House of Representatives on the operation of the program
86 during the previous year. The report must include, at a minimum,
87 findings based on the review of incidents at the Lowell

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88 Correctional Institution and the helpfulness of the body cameras
89 worn by corrections officers, proposals on changes to existing
90 policies and procedures, and any other information that the
91 department deems important in furthering the purpose of the
92 pilot program.

93 (6) This section expires June 30, 2024.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.