

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 509](#)

**TITLE:** Code Inspector Body Cameras

**SPONSOR(S):** Partington

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 504](#) (Burgess)

**LINKED BILLS:** [HB 511](#) Partington

**RELATED BILLS:** [SB 506](#) (Burgess)

### Committee References

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

15 Y, 0 N, As CS



[State Affairs](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires counties and municipalities that allow code inspectors to wear body cameras to establish policies and procedures for their use, maintenance, and storage, and for the storage, retention, and release of audio and video data recorded by body cameras. The bill also requires counties and municipalities that permit code inspectors to wear body cameras to ensure personnel are properly trained, to retain audio and video data recorded by body cameras in accordance with public records requirements, and to perform periodic compliance reviews.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on counties and municipalities that allow code inspectors to wear body cameras to the extent those counties and municipalities may incur costs to comply with the requirements of the bill.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires each county or municipality that permits its [code inspectors](#) to wear [body cameras](#) to establish policies and procedures to address proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras and of the data recorded by body cameras. These policies and procedures must include:

- General guidelines for the proper use of body cameras.
- Any limitations on which code inspectors may wear body cameras.
- Any limitations on code enforcement-related encounters and activities in which code inspectors are permitted to wear body cameras, but provides code inspectors must be permitted to use a body camera to record any encounter with a member of the public while performing their duties.
- Guidelines for body camera audio and video data storage, retention, and release. (Section [1](#))

The bill also requires each county or municipality that permits code inspectors to use body cameras to:

- Ensure all personnel who wear, use, maintain, or store body cameras are trained in the governmental entity's body camera policies and procedures.
- Ensure that all personnel who use, maintain, store, or release audio or video data recorded by body cameras are trained in the governmental entity's policies and procedures.
- Retain audio and video data recorded by body cameras in accordance with [public records](#) laws.
- Perform periodic reviews of actual body camera practices to ensure compliance with the county or municipality's adopted policies and procedures. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides that current laws ensuring the privacy of [oral and wire communications](#) do not apply to code inspector body camera recordings. (Section [1](#))

**STORAGE NAME:** h0509a.IAS

**DATE:** 1/14/2026

These provisions mirror existing law for law enforcement agencies that permit their officers to wear body cameras.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

## **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on counties and municipalities that allow code inspectors to wear body cameras to the extent those counties and municipalities may incur costs to comply with the requirements of the bill.

## **RELEVANT INFORMATION**

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

#### **[County and Municipal Code Enforcement](#)**

Code enforcement is a function of local government intended to enhance the economy and quality of life of counties and municipalities by protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community.<sup>1</sup> Current law provides counties and municipalities with multiple mechanisms to enforce their local codes and ordinances.<sup>2</sup> Under each mechanism, a local government designates code inspectors or code enforcement officers, tasked with investigating potential code violations, providing notice of violations, and issuing citations for noncompliance.<sup>3</sup> Local codes and ordinances allow local governments to enforce regulations on a variety of matters such as zoning, tree cutting, nuisances, and excessive noise. Code inspectors do not have the authority to perform the functions or duties of law enforcement officers.<sup>4</sup>

The Local Government Code Enforcement Boards Act<sup>5</sup> allows each county and municipality to create local government code enforcement boards by ordinance.<sup>6</sup> A code enforcement board is an administrative board composed of members appointed by the governing body of a county or municipality<sup>7</sup> with the authority to hold hearings and impose administrative fines and other non-criminal penalties for violations of the jurisdiction's codes or ordinances.<sup>8</sup> A code enforcement board may adopt rules for the conduct of its hearings; subpoena alleged violators, witnesses, and evidence to its hearings; take testimony under oath; and issue orders having the force of law necessary to bring a violation into compliance.<sup>9</sup>

Code enforcement proceedings are initiated by code inspectors.<sup>10</sup> When a code violation is found, the code inspector notifies the violator and gives the alleged violator a reasonable period to correct the violation.<sup>11</sup> Should the violation continue beyond the time specified, the code inspector notifies the code enforcement board and

<sup>1</sup> [S. 162.02, F.S.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ch. 125, Part II, F.S. (county self-government), ch. 162, Part 1, F.S. (code enforcement), ch. 162, Part 2 (supplemental procedures), and [s. 166.0415, F.S.](#) (city ordinance enforcement).

<sup>3</sup> Section [162.21\(1\), F.S.](#), defines a code enforcement officer as any designated employee or agent of a county or municipality whose duty it is to enforce codes and ordinances enacted by the county or municipality. Code enforcement officers may include, but are not limited to, code inspectors, law enforcement officers, animal control officers, or fire safety inspectors.

<sup>4</sup> Ss. [125.69\(4\)\(h\)](#) and [166.0415\(4\), F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ch. 162, Part I, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> [S. 162.05\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> [S. 162.03, F.S.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [S. 162.08, F.S.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [S. 162.06\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#) A "code inspector" is "any authorized agent or employee of the county or municipality whose duty it is to assure code compliance." [S. 164.04\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [S. 162.06\(2\), F.S.](#)

requests a hearing. The code enforcement board then schedules a hearing to take testimony from the code inspector and alleged violator.<sup>12</sup> At the conclusion of the hearing, the code enforcement board issues findings of fact, based on evidence of record and conclusions of law, and issues an order stating the relief granted.<sup>13</sup>

An enforcement board, upon notification by the code inspector that an order of the enforcement board has not been complied with, may order the violator to pay a fine for each day the violation that continues past the date set by the enforcement board for compliance or for each day a repeat violation continues.<sup>14</sup> Code enforcement boards may issue fines of up to \$250 per day for a first violation and up to \$500 per day for a repeat violation, as well as all costs of repairs.<sup>15</sup> If a code enforcement board finds the violation to be irreparable or irreversible in nature, it may impose a fine up to \$5,000 per violation. In determining the amount of the fine, the enforcement board shall consider the following factors:

- The gravity of the violation;
- Any actions taken by the violator to correct the violation; and
- Any previous violations committed by the violator.<sup>16</sup>

### **Body Cameras**

Current law requires law enforcement agencies to establish policies and procedures for body cameras worn by law enforcement officers but does not address the use of body cameras by code inspectors.<sup>17</sup> Each law enforcement agency that permits its law enforcement officers to wear body cameras must establish policies and procedures to address proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras and of the data recorded by body cameras. These policies and procedures must include:

- General guidelines for the proper use of body cameras.
- Any limitations on which law enforcement officers may wear body cameras.
- Any limitations on law-enforcement-related encounters and activities in which law enforcement officers are permitted to wear body cameras.
- A provision permitting law enforcement officers using body cameras to review the recorded footage from the body camera before writing a report or providing a statement regarding any event arising within the scope of their official duties.
- Guidelines for body camera audio and video data storage, retention, and release.<sup>18</sup>

Each law enforcement agency that permits its law enforcement officers to use body cameras must also:

- Ensure all personnel who wear, use, maintain, or store body cameras are trained in the law enforcement agency's body camera policies and procedures.
- Ensure that all personnel who use, maintain, store, or release audio or video data recorded by body cameras are trained in the law enforcement agency's policies and procedures.
- Retain audio and video data recorded by body cameras in accordance with public records laws.
- Perform periodic reviews of actual body camera practices to ensure compliance with the agency's adopted policies and procedures.

Some local governments in Florida have approved the use of body cameras for code inspections.<sup>19</sup> The usage of body cameras can serve as a safety precaution for code inspectors as well as provide accountability for their

<sup>12</sup> [S. 162.07\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [S. 162.07\(4\), F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [S. 162.09\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [S. 162.09\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [S. 162.09\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>17</sup> See [s. 943.1718, F.S.](#)

<sup>18</sup> [S. 943.1718\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., Letter from Mayor Philip Levine and City Commission of City of Miami Beach to Jimmy Morales, City Manager, City of Miami Beach, [Letter to the Commission No. 434-2016](#) (Oct. 18, 2016) (last visited Jan. 8, 2026); Tess Rowland, [PCB Code Enforcement to receive body cameras](#), WMBB (Oct. 28, 2020) (last visited Jan. 8, 2026); Letter from the Mayor and City Council

actions.<sup>20</sup> Local governments use body cameras to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust while documenting interactions with the community.<sup>21</sup> These body cameras enable real-time recording of code violations, property inspections, and resident interactions, reducing liability and streamlining enforcement processes. Body camera footage has been used in cases including noise complaints, property maintenance, illegal short-term rentals, and other types of code violations.<sup>22</sup>

### **Public Records**

The Florida Constitution sets forth the state's public policy regarding access to government records, guaranteeing every person a right to inspect or copy any public record of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.<sup>23</sup> The Legislature, however, may provide by general law an exemption from public record requirements provided that the exemption passes by a two-thirds vote of each chamber, states with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption, and is no broader than necessary to meet its public purpose.<sup>24</sup>

Current law also addresses the public policy regarding access to government records, guaranteeing every person a right to inspect and copy any state, county, or municipal record, unless the record is exempt.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, the Open Government Sunset Review (OGSR) Act<sup>26</sup> provides that a public record exemption may be created, revised, or maintained only if it serves an identifiable public purpose and the Legislature finds that the purpose is sufficiently compelling to override the strong public policy of open government and cannot be accomplished without the exemption.<sup>27</sup> An identifiable public purpose is served if the exemption meets one of the following purposes:

- Allows the state or its political subdivisions to effectively and efficiently administer a governmental program, which administration would be significantly impaired without the exemption;
- Protects sensitive personal information that, if released, would be defamatory or would jeopardize an individual's safety; however, only information that would identify the individual may be exempted under this provision; or
- Protects trade or business secrets.<sup>28</sup>

Pursuant to the OGSR Act, a new public record exemption, or the substantial amendment of an existing public record exemption, is repealed on October 2<sup>nd</sup> of the fifth year following enactment, unless the Legislature reenacts the exemption.<sup>29</sup>

Furthermore, there is a difference between records the Legislature designates *exempt* from public record requirements and those the Legislature designates *confidential and exempt*. A record classified as exempt from public disclosure may be disclosed under certain circumstances. If the Legislature designates a record as confidential and exempt from public disclosure, such record may not be released by the custodian of public records to anyone other than the persons or entities specifically designated in statute.<sup>30</sup>

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of the City of Doral to Hernan Organvidez, Interim City Manager, City of Doral, [Letter to Council No. 005-2022](#) (Feb. 7, 2022) (last visited Jan 8, 2026).

<sup>20</sup> Citrus County Chronicle, [County backs body-cam proposal for code officers](#), Sep. 3, 2025 (last visited Jan 8, 2026).

<sup>21</sup> Panama City Beach, [City Council Regular Meeting Agenda for Oct. 23 2025](#), p. 103 (last visited Jan 8, 2026).

<sup>22</sup> Miami Beach, [Letter to the Commission No. 434-2016](#), Oct. 18, 2016 (last visited Jan 8, 2026).

<sup>23</sup> [Art. I, s. 24\(a\), Fla. Const.](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Art. I, s. 24\(c\), Fla. Const.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [S. 119.01\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [S. 119.15, F.S.](#)

<sup>27</sup> [S. 119.15\(6\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> [S. 119.15\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>30</sup> See *WFTV, Inc. v. Sch. Bd. of Seminole*, 874 So. 2d 48, 53 (Fla. 5th DCA 2004), *review denied*, 892 So. 2d 1015 (Fla. 2004); *State v. Wooten*, 260 So. 3d 1060, 1070 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018); *City of Rivera Beach v. Barfield*, 642 So. 2d 1135 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994); *Williams v. City of Minneola*, 575 So. 2d 683, 687 (Fla. 5th DCA 1991); Op. Att'y Gen. Fla. 04- 09 (2004).

Current law provides that body camera recordings by law enforcement officers are confidential and exempt in certain circumstances.<sup>31</sup>

### Oral and Wire Communications

Chapter 934, F.S. governs the security of various types of communications and limits the ability to intercept, monitor, and record such communications.<sup>32</sup> Florida law follows the “two party consent rule,” which requires that in circumstances justifying an expectation of privacy, all parties to a communication or conversation must consent to having it recorded before it can be done so legally.<sup>33</sup> A person engaging in the unlawful interception, monitoring, or recording of communications may be subject to both criminal penalties and civil remedies.<sup>34</sup> Body camera recordings made by law enforcement agencies are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.<sup>35</sup>

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee</a>	15 Y, 0 N, As CS	1/14/2026	Darden	Hilliard
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires governmental entities that permit their code inspectors to wear body cameras to ensure that all personnel who use, maintain, store, or release audio or video data recorded by body cameras are trained in the governmental entity's policies and procedures.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">State Affairs Committee</a>				

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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<sup>31</sup> [S. 119.071\(2\)\(l\), F.S.](#)

<sup>32</sup> [S. 934.01, F.S.](#)

<sup>33</sup> [S. 934.03\(2\)\(d\), F.S.](#) See also *State v. Walls*, 356 So. 2d 294 (Fla. 1978) and *State v. Inciarrano*, 473 So. 2d 1272, 1275 (Fla. 1985).

<sup>34</sup> See [ss. 934.04](#) and [934.10, F.S.](#) (providing criminal penalties for the manufacture, distribution, or possession of communication intercepting devices and civil remedies for unlawfully intercepting communications, respectively).

<sup>35</sup> [S. 943.1718\(4\), F.S.](#)