**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 23‑1‑240, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ALL STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH BODY‑WORN CAMERAS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 23 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 23‑1‑240. (A) For purposes of this section, ‘body‑worn camera’ means an electronic device worn on a person’s body that records both audio and video data.

(B) All State and local law enforcement officers must be equipped with body‑worn cameras.

(C) A law enforcement officer shall activate a body‑worn camera to record all contacts, from beginning to end, with persons in the performance of the law enforcement officer’s official duties.

(D) The law enforcement officer shall inform the person that the law enforcement officer is using a body‑worn camera to record the contact between the law enforcement officer and the person.

(E) The retention and release of audio and video data recorded by a body‑worn camera is subject to South Carolina’s laws governing the retention and release of evidence by law enforcement agencies.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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