

SUBJECT: Requiring use of body worn cameras by certain correctional officers

COMMITTEE: Corrections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Herrero, Kacal, Allen, V. Jones, R. Lopez, Sherman, Swanson

1 nay — Toth

1 absent — Murr

WITNESSES: For —Clifton J Buchanan, AFSCME Texas Correctional Employees Council 907; Charlie Malouff, Texas C.U.R.E., Inc; Amite Dominick, Texas prisons Community Advocates; Charles Roberts; (*Registered, but did not testify* Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Joshua Sanders, Axon Enterprise, Inc; Chase Bearden, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Jennifer Toon, Lioness Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance; Ana Gonzalez, Texas AFL-CIO; John Litzler, Texas Baptists Christian Life Commission; Alexis Bay, Texas Civil Rights Project; Jenny Hixon, Texas Civil Rights Project; Mary Sue Molnar, Texas Voices; Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; Renee Monroe, TxCURE Inc; Nicole Ma, Quynh-Huong Ngyuen, and Steven Wu, Woori Juntos; and 12 individuals)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Bobby Lumpkin, Texas Department of Criminal Justice)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that adopting a policy to require the use of body worn cameras by correctional officers could provide for more consistent accountability and increase safety and security in correctional facilities.

DIGEST: HB 1524 would require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to adopt a policy for the use of body worn cameras worn by correctional officers in its facilities. The policy would require that each correctional officer be equipped with a body worn camera during the officer’s shift and

require each officer to keep the camera activated during the performance of the officer's duties.

The department would be required to adopt the policy by January 1, 2024.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board HB 1524 would have a negative impact of about \$23.9 million dollars through August 31, 2025.