

Body Cameras for Code Inspectors: Florida Establishes Statewide Standards for Local Programs

SB 504 – Sen. Danny Burgess (HB 509 – Rep. Bill Partington)

General Bill Summary

SB 504 creates s. 162.41, F.S., establishing statewide requirements for governmental entities that allow code inspectors to wear body cameras while performing official duties. The bill does not require local governments to implement body camera programs but provides a statutory framework governing their use if adopted.

Under the bill, a governmental entity that permits code inspectors to use body cameras must adopt written policies and procedures addressing the use, maintenance, and storage of body camera equipment and recorded data. The policies must specify when cameras may be activated, how recordings are retained, and how the recordings are managed consistent with Florida's public records requirements.

The bill authorizes code inspectors to record audio and video during interactions with the public while conducting official inspections or enforcement activities. It also clarifies that such recordings made by code inspectors using body cameras are not considered unlawful interceptions under the state's wiretapping law in chapter 934, F.S.

Governmental entities that authorize body camera use must also provide training for personnel who operate the cameras or manage the data, and they must conduct periodic reviews of their policies and practices to ensure compliance with adopted procedures and applicable law.

Potential County Impact

Florida counties commonly administer local code enforcement programs, and SB 504 provides a clear statutory framework for counties that choose to deploy body cameras for code inspectors.

The bill does not mandate body camera programs, allowing counties to determine whether such programs are appropriate for their code enforcement operations. However, counties that implement body camera use will need to establish formal policies and procedures governing the use of the technology.

Administrative responsibilities for counties may include developing and maintaining written policies, training inspectors and staff, managing recorded footage, and ensuring compliance with public records retention and disclosure requirements. Counties will also need to periodically review program practices to confirm compliance with adopted policies.

Counties that choose to implement body camera programs may experience fiscal and operational impacts, including costs related to purchasing equipment, maintaining secure data storage systems, and responding to public records requests for recorded footage.

Overall, the bill provides legal clarity and uniform standards for local governments considering body camera programs for code inspectors while preserving county discretion regarding whether to adopt such programs.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Primary Statutory References

- **s. 162.41, F.S.** – Code inspector body cameras (created)