

Shielding Code Inspector Body Camera Footage from Public Disclosure

SB 506 – Sen. Danny Burgess (HB 511 – Rep. Bill Partington)

General Bill Summary

SB 506 creates a public records exemption for body camera recordings captured by local government code inspectors. The bill makes certain portions of these recordings confidential and exempt from Florida's public records laws when the footage depicts private property or other sensitive situations.

The exemption is designed to protect privacy when code inspectors enter residential or otherwise private areas during enforcement activities. The bill also includes specified exceptions allowing access to the recordings by certain parties, such as the property owner, a person depicted in the recording, or entities with legal authorization to obtain the footage.

The legislation requires local governments to retain code inspector body camera recordings for at least 90 days, and the Department of State must incorporate this retention period into the statewide records schedule for such recordings.

Because the bill creates a public records exemption, it includes a statement of public necessity and is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, meaning the exemption will automatically repeal on October 2, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill passed the Senate 38–1 and the House 114–0 on March 10, 2026.

Potential County Impact

County governments that operate code enforcement programs using body cameras will be directly affected by this legislation.

First, counties must implement procedures to manage and protect exempt body camera footage. Records custodians will need to review recordings before release to ensure exempt portions are withheld consistent with the new statutory exemption.

Second, counties must comply with the minimum 90-day retention requirement for code inspector body camera recordings. Counties may need to adjust records management policies, storage capacity, and internal procedures to ensure compliance with the updated retention schedule.

Operationally, counties may experience reduced public records processing complexity in certain cases, because footage recorded inside or around private property may now qualify for exemption rather than requiring extensive redaction.

From a fiscal standpoint, the Senate staff analysis indicates no direct state fiscal impact, but counties could experience minor administrative costs related to records management, storage, and staff training.

Overall, the bill provides additional privacy protections for residents and property owners during code enforcement inspections, while requiring counties to maintain appropriate records retention and exemption procedures.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect on the same date that SB 504 (Code Inspector Body Cameras) or similar legislation takes effect, if enacted during the same legislative session.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 119.0713, F.S.