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Legislators Introduce Grant Program for Body Cameras

MADISON – Today, Reps. Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha) and Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) introduced a grant program for law enforcement agencies to purchase or upgrade body cameras and would provide standards for the use of body camera purchases under the grant.

"Body cameras have a number of public safety benefits including increasing officer safety, providing evidence for trials, and increasing transparency between communities and law enforcement," said Rep. McGuire, "However, the upfront cost of body cameras is significant. This program would ensure that any municipality that wants the benefits of body cameras can access them."

LRB-5787 would create a grant of up to \$1,000,000 for law enforcement agencies to purchase or upgrade body cameras. The grant requires that agencies comply with best practices for body camera usage, including those prescribed in 2019 Wisconsin Act 108, which Gov. Evers signed into law earlier this year.

"Body cameras are a critical tool that can yield essential insights, transparency, and accountability in encounters between the public and law enforcement officers," Rep. Greta Neubauer said, "This bill is designed to make it easier for police departments throughout Wisconsin to deploy this technology for the safety of everyone in our community."

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