

## Theresa Utton-Jerman

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**Subject:** House Gov. Ops. - Department of Public Safety and Sgt of Arms Budgets

**From:** John Gannon <[JGannon@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:JGannon@leg.state.vt.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:29 PM

**Subject:** Department of Public Safety and Sgt of Arms Budgets

Kitty,

This email provides feedback on three issues that we were asked to respond to by your committee:

1. VSP Body Cams
2. Capitol Police Body Cams
3. Capitol Police Position

1. **VSP Body Cams.** As you may recall, Comm. Schirling testified in your committee that the language in S. 219 needed to be revised since it required all VSP personnel to wear body cameras, which would double the cost of this program. HGO agrees that not all personnel need body cameras. Additionally, DPS advised us that the section about adding unallocated costs to the 2021 budget could be removed as the project is funded. Below is proposed language to fix these problems.

*Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 1818 is added to read:*

*§ 1818. EQUIPMENT OF OFFICERS WITH VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES*

*The Department shall ensure that all members assigned to the Vermont State Police Field Force Division who routinely engage with members of the public related to the enforcement of laws ~~every Department law enforcement officer who exercises law enforcement powers~~ is/are equipped with a body camera or other video recording device on his or her person.*

*Sec. 8. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES; ONGOING COSTS*

*-The Department of Public Safety shall immediately initiate the acquisition and deployment of video recording devices to comply with the requirements of 20 V.S.A. § 1818. The ongoing costs of the devices that cannot be accommodated within the Department's budget shall be included in the Department's FY21 budget proposal to the General Assembly in August of 2020. The Department shall complete deployment of video recording devices in accordance with the requirements of 20 V.S.A. § 1818 by March 31, 2021.*

**2. Capitol Police Body Cams.** The Speaker has advised us that the Legislative Joint Management Committee should have jurisdiction over this issue. Until LJMC has provided input on this issue, HGO cannot recommend funding this request. We anticipate that LJMC will not have a recommendation until January.

**3. Capitol Police Position.** New Officer funding within the Capitol Police budget was in the January recommendation. However, the Sergeant of Arms is now withdrawing that request to fund. HGO agrees that we should not fund this position at this time because of the uncertainty surrounding how the General Assembly will reconvene in January. However, we do feel that this should be re-visited during Budget Adjustment when there may be more certainty about how the General Assembly will reconvene.

Thanks,

John

Rep. John Gannon

Halifax, Whitingham & Wilmington