



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
TRAINING BULLETIN 014



MANDATED BODY WORN CAMERA TRAINING  
MARCH 31, 2016

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this training bulletin is to provide guidance to all commissioned officers and certain civilians on the need to complete state mandated training on Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

**II. Discussion**

The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature mandated that Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) that use BWCs must have a policy in place and provide training to police officers that use BWCs and department personnel that handle video and audio data from the BWC. The policy and training must be completed by September 1, 2016. Please review excerpts below from Texas Senate Bill 158 which is responsible for the aforementioned mandates. On 9/1/2015 Director Heidingsfield submitted ODOP/UTSP Policy 413, Body Worn Video Camera Program, to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, a requirement of Texas Senate bill 158 and Texas Occupation Code, Subchapter N, to ensure that it was established that our agency was currently using BWC technology, had the appropriate policy in place as required statutorily and was positioned to participate in the TCOLE-prepared training when it was available. ODOP Policy 413 can be accessed <http://www.utsystem.edu/pol/policies/413BodyWornVideoCameraProgram.pdf>.

**III. Occupations Code Sec. 1701.656. TRAINING.**

(a) Before a law enforcement agency may operate a body worn camera program, the agency must provide training to:

- (1) peace officers who will wear the body worn cameras; and**
- (2) any other personnel who will come into contact with video and audio data obtained from the use of body worn cameras.**

(b) The commission, in consultation with the department, the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, the W. W. Caruth Jr. Police Institute at Dallas, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association, shall develop or approve a curriculum for a training program under this section.

**IV. 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, Senate Bill 158 SECTION 2.**

(a) The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, the W. W. Caruth Jr. Police Institute at Dallas, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association, shall develop or approve a curriculum for the training program required under Section 1701.656, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2016.

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(b) A law enforcement agency operating a body worn camera program on the effective date of this Act may submit any existing policy of the agency regarding the use of body worn cameras to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to determine whether the policy complies with Section 1701.655, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

**(c) Notwithstanding Sections 1701.655 and 1701.656, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, a law enforcement agency operating a body worn camera program on the effective date of this Act is not required to adopt or implement a policy that complies with Section 1701.655 or implement the training program required under Section 1701.656 before September 1, 2016.**

**V. Senate Bill 158 SECTION 3.**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

**VI. TCOLE Course 8158 Body Worn Cameras**

The curriculum has been completed and is available for review on the TCOLE Training Resources website located at:

<https://www.tcole.texas.gov/sites/default/files/CourseCMU/8158%20Body%20Worn%20Camera.s.docx>

This material is not a lesson plan but merely a guide from which a lesson plan can be created. UTSP- Dallas Officer T. Palmer is currently creating a lesson plan and PowerPoint for this course and will be available for distribution to the UTSP departments by April 30, 2016.

**VII. Other options for training**

There are other contract training providers that currently provide the training and at least one of those providers has an online option. The training providers include:

1. <http://www.policetrainingcenter.com/training/body-worn-cameras-8158-tcole/subpage495.html>
2. Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)

The AACOG Academy can come to your agency (within the AACOG Region) to teach this class for a flat rate of \$275.00. Contact Richard Bryan at [rbryan@aacog.com](mailto:rbryan@aacog.com) for details.

**VIII. Final Note**

In order that UTSP be in full compliance with the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session mandate, applicable personnel must complete the required training. The UTSP Academy will advise all departmental training officers when the training materials are ready. Each department can start identifying instructors at their department that are Subject Matter Experts to be able to teach this course.

Police Chiefs at institution police departments that deploy BWC technology are strongly encouraged to take advantage of one of the currently available training options.



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