COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

H.R. 11080, the "DHS Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Accountability Act"

As Introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Federal law enforcement officers must earn and maintain public trust. Unfortunately, the Trump administration has carried out an increasingly militarized immigration enforcement campaign marked by warrantless actions, repeated due-process violations, defiance of court orders, and deadly uses of force—making independent, contemporaneous evidence more urgent than ever. Several Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) encounters in 2026—including the fatal shootings of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston, Texas, and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero in Biddeford, Maine as well as the shooting of Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez in Austin, Texas—occurred without activated body-worn camera (BWCs) recordings, leaving critical unanswered questions about these tragedies.[1]

Recent DHS incidents demonstrate that BWC footage can be indispensable in testing official accounts and exposing misconduct. After a Border Patrol agent shot Marimar Martinez five times in Chicago, DHS claimed that she had rammed agents with her vehicle. BWC footage instead showed an agent steering towards and striking Ms. Martinez's car, undermining the Federal government's account and contributing to the dismissal of a felony case against her.[2] Likewise, footage of the fatal shooting of U.S. citizen Ruben Ray Martinez in South Padre Island,

[1] Rebecca Santana, "DHS was granted $20M for body cameras. ICE agents in fatal Houston shooting had none," The Associated Press (Jul. 10, 2026). https://apnews.com/article/cameras-body-worn-houston-shooting-ice-immigration-trump-aa316992c75fcd919726afc4db6f4098; Karl Loftus, "ICE Officers at Maine Shooting Scene Were Wearing Body Cameras. They Were Not Turned On," The Intercept (Jul. 16, 2026). https://theintercept.com/2026/07/16/ice-maine-shooting-body-cameras/; Nick Miroff, "The ICE Officer in Austin Wasn't Wearing a Body Cam," The Atlantic (Sep. 22, 2026). https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/09/austin-ice-shooting-body-camera/688738/.

[2] Chris Looft, Tom Jones, Kerem Inal and Peter Charalambous, "Video suggests DHS exaggerated claims about the shooting of Marimar Martinez: Visual analysis," ABC News (Feb. 12, 2026). https://abcnews.com/US/video-suggests-dhs-exaggerated-claims-shooting-marimar-martinez/story?id=130077502.

Texas, contradicted DHS's claim that he had intentionally run over an agent: the video showed his vehicle stationary or moving very slowly, with its brake lights illuminated, when an ICE agent opened fire.[3] These cases show why recording, preservation, and timely public-release requirements are essential safeguards against false or misleading government narratives.

In its report released on October 14, 2026, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that CBP and ICE have not updated their BWC program plans to reflect changes in deployment and funding, have not implemented results-oriented performance goals, and that ICE lacks automated activation controls for its BWC devices—findings this Act directly addresses. ***H.R. 11080, the "DHS Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Accountability Act"*** will provide greater transparency and accountability for law enforcement at DHS by mandating the following:

- Require all Department law enforcement officers and agents engaged in certain law enforcement activities to be equipped with body-worn and dashboard cameras and that the Department disseminate a Department-wide policy on their use.
- Require the deployment of automated activation tools that, at a minimum, trigger dashboard camera recording when emergency lights are engaged and body-worn camera recording when a Department-issued firearm holster sensor detects a draw, or when proximity to another activated body-worn camera is detected.
- After incidents involving serious bodily injury, death, or the brandishing of a deadly weapon, establish expedited release protocols.
- Ban the use of body-worn or dashboard cameras for real-time facial recognition or other real-time biometric surveillance.
- Establish clear, civil-liberties-protective limits on recording—prohibiting surveillance of First Amendment-protected activity, recording in sensitive environments absent qualifying circumstances, and discriminatory targeting.
- Require initial and annual refresher training for all personnel on camera operation, evidence management, privacy and civil rights, and safe, lawful use of BWCs and dashboard cameras.
- Establish results-oriented performance goals and measures with regular reporting to Congress.

By enacting these requirements, Congress aims to close the gaps identified by GAO and public accounts. Body-worn and dashboard cameras are essential tools for transparency, accountability, and accurate documentation of enforcement encounters.

[3] Camilo Montoya-Galvez, Jared Eggleston, Brad Hodges, Joe Walsh, "Bodycam video contradicts ICE claims in fatal shooting of U.S. citizen Ruben Ray Martinez in Texas," CBS News (Mar. 7, 2026). https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bodycam-video-ice-fatal-shooting-ruben-ray-martinez-texas/.