

Summary of Regulatory Analysis for 110-RICR-10-00-2

The policy at the center of the proposed rule is anticipated to generate significant, long-term public health, safety, welfare, and economic benefits for the State of Rhode Island and its residents. These substantive benefits for Rhode Islanders and the State stemming from the policy include: creating consistency in public safety policy and setting public expectations for police, advancing protection of important constitutional rights, ensuring important interactions between law enforcement and members of the public are documented, and building important public trust in government. There are also modest costs associated with local and state police agencies participating in the Statewide Body-worn Camera Program and adopting the policy, specifically related to: video review for auditing and compliance; and video review, redaction, and processing for open records requests and civil and criminal discovery.

The Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, have developed the Policy to achieve the maximum potential benefit to the State of Rhode Island through the Statewide Body-worn Camera Program and the funding appropriated for its use. The primary goals of the program are to promote the widespread adoption of body-worn cameras—key accountability and law enforcement tools that are an unbiased witness to law enforcement actions and help build community trust while providing prosecutors with critical evidence—and ensuring the effective use and operation of the cameras. As drafted, the Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety believe the policy will achieve these goals, providing long-term health, safety, welfare and economic benefits to the State of Rhode Island.

The Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety have determined that the benefits of the proposed rule justify the costs of the proposed rule, and that the proposed rule will achieve the objectives of the authorizing legislation in a more cost-effective manner, or with greater net benefits, than other regulatory alternatives.