

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1000**

FINAL READING

Introduced by Mello, 5; Cook, 13; Ebke, 32; Harr, 8; Krist, 10; Morfeld, 46; Seiler, 33; Williams, 36; Chambers, 11.

Read first time January 15, 2016

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to law enforcement; to amend sections 29-1404,  
2 29-1406, 29-1407.01, and 29-1420, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
3 Nebraska, and section 29-1401, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
4 Supplement, 2014; to provide for adoption of policies relating to  
5 body-worn cameras and eyewitness suspect identifications; to provide  
6 and change provisions relating to grand juries; to harmonize  
7 provisions; and to repeal the original sections.  
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. For purposes of sections 1 to 3 of this act, unless the  
2 context otherwise requires:

3           (1) Body-worn camera means a device worn by a peace officer in  
4 uniform which has the capability to record both audio and video of an  
5 interaction between a peace officer and a member of the public but does  
6 not include any device used by a plain clothes officer;

7           (2) Commission means the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and  
8 Criminal Justice;

9           (3) Law enforcement agency means an agency or department of this  
10 state or of any political subdivision of this state which is responsible  
11 for the prevention and detection of crime, the enforcement of the penal,  
12 traffic, or highway laws of this state or any political subdivision of  
13 this state, and the enforcement of arrest warrants. Law enforcement  
14 agency includes a police department, an office of a town marshal, an  
15 office of a county sheriff, the Nebraska State Patrol, and any department  
16 to which a deputy state sheriff is assigned as provided in section  
17 84-106; and

18           (4) Peace officer means any officer or employee of a law enforcement  
19 agency authorized by law to make arrests.

20           Sec. 2. (1) On or before December 1, 2016, the commission shall  
21 develop and distribute a model body-worn camera policy that includes the  
22 procedures and provisions required by section 3 of this act. Any law  
23 enforcement agency required to adopt a policy under this section that  
24 does not develop and adopt its own policy shall adopt the model body-worn  
25 camera policy developed by the commission.

26           (2)(a) Any law enforcement agency which uses body-worn cameras as of  
27 the effective date of this act shall, on or before January 1, 2017, adopt  
28 a written body-worn camera policy. Such policy shall include procedures  
29 and provisions in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the  
30 model body-worn camera policy developed by the commission and may include  
31 any other procedures and provisions the law enforcement agency deems

1 appropriate.

2 (b) Beginning January 1, 2017, any law enforcement agency which uses  
3 body-worn cameras shall, prior to commencing such use, adopt a written  
4 body-worn camera policy. Such policy shall include procedures and  
5 provisions in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the  
6 model body-worn camera policy developed by the commission and may include  
7 any other procedures and provisions the law enforcement agency deems  
8 appropriate.

9 (3) The head of a law enforcement agency required to adopt a policy  
10 under this section shall provide a copy of such policy to the commission  
11 within three months of such policy's adoption.

12 (4) On or before January 1, 2018, and each January 1 thereafter,  
13 when any law enforcement agency required to adopt a policy under this  
14 section has made any change to its policy in the preceding year, the head  
15 of such agency shall provide an updated copy of such policy to the  
16 commission.

17 Sec. 3. A body-worn camera policy required by section 2 of this act  
18 shall include provisions which govern the use of body-worn cameras by  
19 peace officers and the retention and disposition of recordings created  
20 with such cameras by law enforcement agencies. Such body-worn camera  
21 policy shall include, but not be limited to:

22 (1) A requirement that training be provided to any peace officer who  
23 will use a body-worn camera and to any other employee who will come into  
24 contact with video or audio data recorded by a body-worn camera;

25 (2) A requirement that recordings created by body-worn cameras shall  
26 be retained for a minimum period of ninety days from the date of  
27 recording. Such recordings shall be retained for more than ninety days if  
28 required by the following circumstances:

29 (a) Upon notice to the law enforcement agency of a criminal or civil  
30 court proceeding in which the recording may have evidentiary value or in  
31 which the recording is otherwise involved, the recording shall be

1 retained until final judgment has been entered in the proceeding;

2 (b) Upon notice to the law enforcement agency of a disciplinary  
3 proceeding against an employee of the agency in which the recording may  
4 have evidentiary value or in which the recording is otherwise involved,  
5 the recording shall be retained until a final determination has been made  
6 in such proceeding; and

7 (c) If the recording is part of a criminal investigation that has  
8 not resulted in an arrest or prosecution, the recording shall be retained  
9 until the investigation is officially closed or suspended; and

10 (3) A procedure governing the destruction of recordings after the  
11 retention period described in subdivision (2) of this section has  
12 elapsed.

13 Sec. 4. (1) On or before January 1, 2017, the Nebraska State  
14 Patrol, each county sheriff, each city or village police department, and  
15 any other law enforcement agency in this state which conducts eyewitness  
16 suspect identifications shall adopt a written policy on eyewitness  
17 suspect identifications and provide a copy of such policy to the Nebraska  
18 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The policy shall  
19 include the minimum standards developed by the commission relating to the  
20 following: (a) Standards which describe the administration of a lineup,  
21 (b) procedures governing the instructions given by a peace officer to an  
22 eyewitness, and (c) procedures for documentation of the eyewitness's  
23 level of certainty of an identification.

24 (2) The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice  
25 shall distribute a standard model written policy on suspect  
26 identification by eyewitnesses. Any law enforcement agency described in  
27 subsection (1) of this section which fails to adopt its own policy as  
28 required by this section shall adopt the commission's standard model  
29 written policy.

30 Sec. 5. Section 29-1401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
31 2014, is amended to read:

1           29-1401 (1) The district courts are hereby vested with power to call  
2 grand juries.

3           (2) A grand jury may be called and summoned in the manner provided  
4 by law on such day of a regular term of the district court in each year  
5 in each county of the state as the district court may direct and at such  
6 other times and upon such notice as the district court may deem  
7 necessary.

8           (3) District courts shall call a grand jury in each case that a  
9 petition meets the requirements of section 32-628, includes a recital as  
10 to the reason for requesting the convening of the grand jury and a  
11 specific reference to the statute or statutes which are alleged to have  
12 been violated, and is signed not more than ninety days prior to the date  
13 of filing under section 29-1401.02 by not less than ten percent of the  
14 registered voters of the county who cast votes for the office of Governor  
15 in such county at the most recent general election held for such office.

16           (4) District courts shall call a grand jury in each case upon  
17 certification by the county coroner or coroner's physician that a person  
18 has died while being apprehended by or while in the custody of a law  
19 enforcement officer or detention personnel. In each case subject to this  
20 subsection:

21           (a) Law enforcement personnel from the jurisdiction in which the  
22 death occurred shall immediately secure the scene, preserve all evidence,  
23 and investigate the matter as in any other homicide. The case shall be  
24 treated as an open, ongoing matter until all evidence, reports, and other  
25 relevant material which has been assembled are transferred to a  
26 prosecuting attorney selected pursuant to subdivision (b) of this  
27 subsection; and

28           (b) The county attorney or a member of his or her staff shall be the  
29 prosecuting attorney. Except as provided in subdivision (d) of this  
30 subsection, the prosecuting attorney shall, as soon as practicable,  
31 select a team of three peace officers trained to investigate homicides.

1 At least two of such investigators shall be from agencies other than the  
2 agency under which the death occurred. The team shall examine all  
3 evidence concerning the cause of death and present the findings of its  
4 investigation to the prosecuting attorney;

5 (c) A grand jury shall be impaneled within thirty days after the  
6 certification by the county coroner or coroner's physician, unless the  
7 court extends such time period upon the showing of a compelling reason;  
8 and -

9 (d) In those cases in which the death has been certified by a  
10 licensed practicing physician to be from natural causes, the county  
11 attorney or a member of his or her staff may present such finding to a  
12 grand jury without selecting a three-member team of peace officers to  
13 investigate.

14 Sec. 6. Section 29-1404, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
15 amended to read:

16 29-1404 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,  
17 when ~~When~~ the foreperson ~~foreman~~ shall be appointed, an oath or  
18 affirmation shall be administered to him or her in the following words:  
19 Saving yourself and fellow jurors, you, as foreperson ~~foreman~~ of this  
20 grand inquest, shall diligently inquire and true presentment make, of all  
21 such matters and things as shall be given you in charge or otherwise come  
22 to your knowledge, touching the present service. The counsel of the  
23 state, your own and your fellows, you shall keep secret, unless called on  
24 in a court of justice to make disclosures. You shall present no person  
25 through malice, hatred, or ill will, nor shall you leave any person  
26 unrepresented through fear, favor, or affection, or for any reward or hope  
27 thereof; but in all your presentments you shall present the truth, the  
28 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, according to the best of your  
29 skill and understanding.

30 (2) For grand juries impaneled pursuant to subsection (4) of section  
31 29-1401, when the foreperson shall be appointed, an oath or affirmation

1 shall be administered to him or her in the following words: Saving  
2 yourself and fellow jurors, you, as foreperson of this grand inquest,  
3 shall diligently inquire and true presentment make, of all such matters  
4 and things as shall be given you in charge or otherwise come to your  
5 knowledge, touching the present service. The counsel of the state, your  
6 own and your fellows, you shall keep secret during the course of the  
7 impaneled grand jury's investigation and deliberations, unless called on  
8 in a court of justice to make disclosures. You shall present no person  
9 through malice, hatred, or ill will, nor shall you leave any person  
10 unpresented through fear, favor, or affection, or for any reward or hope  
11 thereof; but in all your presentments you shall present the truth, the  
12 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, according to the best of your  
13 skill and understanding.

14       Sec. 7. Section 29-1406, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
15 amended to read:

16       29-1406 (1) The grand jury, after being sworn, shall be charged as  
17 to their duty by the judge, who shall call their attention particularly  
18 to the obligation of secrecy which their oaths impose, and to such  
19 offenses as he or she is by law required to specially charge.

20       (2) Upon impanelment of each grand jury, the court shall give to  
21 such grand jury adequate and reasonable written notice of and shall  
22 assure that the grand jury reasonably understands the nature of:

23       (a) Its duty to inquire into offenses against the criminal laws of  
24 the State of Nebraska alleged to have been committed or, in the case of a  
25 grand jury impaneled pursuant to subsection (4) of section 29-1401, its  
26 duty to inquire into offenses against the criminal laws of the State of  
27 Nebraska regarding the death of a person who has died while being  
28 apprehended or while in the custody of a law enforcement officer or  
29 detention personnel;

30       (b) Its right to call and interrogate witnesses;

31       (c) Its right to request the production of documents or other

1 evidence;

2 (d) The subject matter of the investigation and the criminal  
3 statutes or other statutes involved, if these are known at the time the  
4 grand jury is impaneled;

5 (e) The duty of the grand jury by an affirmative vote of twelve or  
6 more members of the grand jury to determine, based on the evidence  
7 presented before it, whether or not there is probable cause for finding  
8 indictments and to determine the violations to be included in any such  
9 indictments;~~and~~

10 (f) The requirement that the grand jury may not return an indictment  
11 in cases of perjury unless at least two witnesses to the same fact  
12 present evidence establishing probable cause to return such an  
13 indictment; and -

14 (g) In the case of a grand jury impaneled pursuant to subsection (4)  
15 of section 29-1401, if the grand jury returns a no true bill:

16 (i) The grand jury shall create a grand jury report with the  
17 assistance of the prosecuting attorney. The grand jury report shall  
18 briefly provide an explanation of the grand jury's findings and any  
19 recommendations the grand jury determines to be appropriate based upon  
20 the grand jury's investigation and deliberations; and

21 (ii) The no true bill and the grand jury report shall be filed with  
22 the court, where they shall be available for public review, along with  
23 the grand jury transcript provided for in subdivision (2)(b) of section  
24 29-1407.01.

25 Sec. 8. Section 29-1407.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
26 amended to read:

27 29-1407.01 (1) A certified or authorized reporter shall be present  
28 at all grand jury sessions. All grand jury proceedings and testimony from  
29 commencement to adjournment shall be reported.

30 (2)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b) of this section, the  
31 The reporter's notes and any transcripts which may be prepared shall be

1 preserved, sealed, and filed with the court. No release or destruction of  
2 the notes or transcripts shall occur without prior court approval.

3 (b) In the case of a grand jury impaneled pursuant to subsection (4)  
4 of section 29-1401, a transcript, including any exhibits of the grand  
5 jury proceedings, shall be prepared at court expense and shall be filed  
6 with the court where it shall be available for public review. Such  
7 transcript shall not include the names of grand jurors or their  
8 deliberations.

9 (3 2) Upon application by the prosecutor, or by any witness after  
10 notice to the prosecutor, the court, for good cause, may enter an order  
11 to furnish to that witness a transcript of his or her own grand jury  
12 testimony, or minutes, reports, or exhibits relating thereto.

13 (4 3) Any witness summoned to testify before a grand jury, or an  
14 attorney for such witness with the witness's written approval, shall be  
15 entitled, prior to testifying, to examine and copy at the witness's  
16 expense any statement in the possession of the prosecuting attorney or  
17 the grand jury which such witness has made that relates to the subject  
18 matter under inquiry by the grand jury. If a witness is proceeding in  
19 forma pauperis, he or she shall be furnished, upon request, a copy of  
20 such transcript and shall not pay a fee.

21 Sec. 9. Section 29-1420, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
22 amended to read:

23 29-1420 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(g) of section  
24 29-1406, the The report of the grand jury shall not be made public except  
25 when the report is filed, including indictments, or when required by  
26 statute or except that all of the report or a portion thereof may be  
27 released if the judge of the district court finds that such a release  
28 will exonerate a person or persons who have requested such a release.

29 (2) A district judge under whose direction a grand jury has been  
30 impaneled may, upon good cause shown, transfer to a court of competent  
31 jurisdiction in another county or jurisdiction any evidence gathered by

1 the grand jury that offenses have been committed in such other county or  
2 jurisdiction.

3 Sec. 10. Original sections 29-1404, 29-1406, 29-1407.01, and  
4 29-1420, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 29-1401,  
5 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014, are repealed.