

HB246 and Securing Input from Historically Marginalized Populations, P.I.: Austin Ashe, Ph.D., Department of Sociology

House Bill 246, requires Virginia police departments to establish a written policy operation of a body-worn camera system and make it available for public comment and review prior to its adoption. Although the bill's primary sponsor was Del. Mark Levine, (D) Alexandria, it passed with bipartisan support. The purported intentions are to increase accountability, transparency, and build stronger relationships between law enforcement and citizens across Virginia (Arnold 2020). The bill will go into effect on July 1st. In order to actualize transparency and ensure public input from an inclusive public requires substantial effort and research. The proposed project is intended to study effective mechanisms for engaging marginalized populations who have consistently been excluded from the process.