

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 15, 2014

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1454**

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**Introduced by Senator Gaines**

February 21, 2014

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An act to add Section 856.5 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1454, as amended, Gaines. *Department of Fish and ~~wildlife:~~ Wildlife:* enforcement: patrol mounted vehicle video and audio systems.

Existing law establishes the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Natural Resources Agency, and generally charges the department with the administration and enforcement of the Fish and Game Code. Existing law provides that all employees of the department designated by the Director of Fish and Wildlife as deputized law enforcement officers are peace officers, as defined.

This bill would authorize the department to install patrol vehicle mounted video and audio systems, commonly known as dashboard cameras, in patrol vehicles used by the department's peace officers. The bill would authorize a peace-officer *officer* to use a patrol vehicle mounted video and audio system to record any communications or other actions involving the officer while the officer is in uniform and acting within the scope of his or her authority. *The bill would require the department to adopt a policy to establish standards regarding the activation of patrol vehicle mounted video and audio systems and the preservation and retention of video and audio recordings from patrol mounted video and audio systems.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 856.5 is added to the Fish and Game  
2 Code, to read:

3 856.5. (a) The department may install patrol vehicle mounted  
4 video and audio systems, commonly known as dashboard cameras,  
5 in patrol vehicles used by peace officers described in Section 856.  
6 A peace officer described in Section 856 may use the patrol  
7 mounted vehicle video and audio system to record any  
8 communications or other actions involving the officer while the  
9 officer is in uniform and acting within the scope of his or her  
10 authority.

11 (b) *The department shall adopt a policy to establish standards*  
12 *regarding the activation of patrol vehicle mounted video and audio*  
13 *systems and the preservation and retention of video and audio*  
14 *recordings from patrol mounted video and audio systems.*

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