

House Bill 79 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Pezold of the 133rd, Powell of the 32nd, Caldwell of the 20th, Jasperse of the 11th, Brockway of the 102nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions regarding law enforcement officers and agencies, so as to prohibit law
3 enforcement from retaining license plate data obtained from automated license plate
4 recognition systems beyond a certain period; to provide for definitions; to provide for the
5 exchange or sharing of data obtained from license plate recognition systems by law
6 enforcement; to provide for criminal penalties for misuse of captured license plate data; to
7 provide for policies; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
12 provisions regarding law enforcement officers and agencies, is amended by adding a new
13 Code section to read as follows:

14 "35-1-22.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Automated license plate recognition system' means one or more high-speed cameras
17 combined with computer algorithms used to convert images of license plates into
18 computer readable data.

19 (2) 'Captured license plate data' means the global positioning device coordinates, date
20 and time, photograph, license plate number, and any other data captured by or derived
21 from an automated license plate recognition system or any other source.

22 (3) 'Law enforcement agency' means the Department of Public Safety, the Department
23 of Transportation, and any other state, federal, local, public transit, school, college, or
24 university agency that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime, local
25 government code enforcement, and the enforcement of penal, traffic, toll violation,
26 regulatory, game, or controlled substance laws.

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27 (4) 'Law enforcement purpose' means the investigation of an offense or activity initiated
28 by a law enforcement agency.

29 (5) 'Person' means an individual, corporation, company, partnership, firm, association,
30 joint venture, or any other unincorporated association or group.

31 (b) Law enforcement agencies may collect captured license plate data. Such data shall be
32 stored immediately upon collection and not accessed except for a law enforcement purpose.
33 All such data collected shall be destroyed no later than 30 months after such data were
34 originally collected unless such data are the subject matter of a toll violation or for a law
35 enforcement purpose.

36 (c) Law enforcement agencies may exchange or share captured license plate data with
37 other law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes.

38 (d)(1) Any person who knowingly requests, uses, obtains, or attempts to obtain captured
39 license plate data of a law enforcement agency under false pretenses or for any purpose
40 other than for a law enforcement purpose shall for each such offense, upon conviction
41 thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

42 (2) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to preclude a law enforcement agency
43 from contracting with a person to hold and maintain captured license plate data for such
44 law enforcement agency; provided, however, that such person shall be subject to the
45 policies of the law enforcement agency and paragraph (1) of this subsection.

46 (e) Any law enforcement agency deploying an automated license plate recognition system
47 shall maintain policies for the use and operation of such system, including but not limited
48 to policies for the training of law enforcement officers in the use of captured license plate
49 data consistent with this Code section.

50 (f) Captured license plate data collected by a law enforcement agency shall not be subject
51 to public disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50."

52 **SECTION 2.**

53 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.