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Heard in the Law
Enforcement and Criminal
Justice Interim Committee
meeting on 9-16-26.

Legislative History: Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

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Definitions (41-6a-2002)

Automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system: a system of one or more mobile or fixed automated high-speed cameras used in combination with computer algorithms to convert an image of a license plate into computer-readable data.

Captured plate data: the global positioning coordinates, date and time, photograph, license plate number, and any other data captured by or derived from an automatic license plate reader system.

Active criminal investigation: an officer has documented reasonable suspicion that a crime is being or has been committed and believes the suspected criminal activity may be connected to a vehicle, a registered owner of a vehicle, or an occupant of a vehicle.



Timeline of Enacted Legislation

SB 196 (2013)

Codified ALPR guidelines for “a person or governmental entity,” including law enforcement and parking enforcement entities.

SB 51 (2014)

Added public transit districts to the list of authorized entities.

SB 222 (2014)

Limited ALPR use restrictions to governmental entities. Required entities to obtain a warrant or court order for privately held data.

HB 128 (2020)

Added higher education institutions to the list of authorized entities.

HB 443 (2022)

Added the Utah Inland Port Authority to the list of authorized entities.

SB 250 (2023)

Required law enforcement to track ALPR data searches and post policies. Clarified law enforcement’s allowable uses of ALPR systems.

SB 45 (2024)

Allowed law enforcement to use an ALPR to access information in UCJIS. Defined “active criminal investigation.”



Allowable Uses of ALPR Systems for Law Enforcement (41-6a-2003)

To access captured license plate data:



As part of an active criminal investigation



To apprehend an individual with an outstanding warrant



To locate a missing or endangered person



To locate a stolen vehicle

To access the Utah Criminal Justice Information System:



To verify valid vehicle registration information



To confirm vehicle identification



To verify insurance information



To identify a stolen vehicle

Captured Plate Data Preservation (41-6a-2004 & 2005)

- Data maintained by a gov. entity = protected record that may not be sold, shared, or used for an unauthorized purpose
- Data may not be preserved for more than **nine months** by a gov. entity, except pursuant to:
 - a preservation request;
 - a disclosure order; or
 - a warrant
- Law enforcement agencies shall preserve a record of:
 - the number of times a search of data is conducted by the agency or the agency's employees/agents; and
 - the crime type and incident number associated with each search



Previous Introduced Legislation

<u>HB 468 (2025) & HB 327 (2026)</u>	<u>HB 450 S1* (2026)</u>
• Prohibited entities from using ALPRs for certain purposes, such as targeting individuals for exercising First Amendment rights. • Narrowed allowable uses of ALPRs for law enforcement. • Imposed stricter requirements for data retention and reporting.	• Required entities to obtain appropriate legislative authorization before using ALPRs. • Required an entity, prior to implementing ALPRs, to publicly disclose descriptions and uses of the technology, how the entity would oversee the technology, and who the entity would share the data with. <i>*HB 450 S6 passed without these provisions.</i>





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Questions?

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