

**LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS AMENDMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jefferson S. Burton**

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to the use of license plate reading technology and data obtained through license plate reading technology.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ allows a law enforcement agency to use license plate reading technology gathered by a private entity in certain circumstances;
- ▶ allows the Department of Transportation to issue a permit for the use of license plate reading technology on a state highway in certain circumstances;
- ▶ requires a law enforcement agency participating in a license plate reading technology program to publicly post policies related to license plate reading technology and special use permits the law enforcement agency has received;
- ▶ defines parameters for the collection and retention of information for investigative searches and for audit purposes gathered through license plate reading technology by a law enforcement agency; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **41-6a-2003**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 82

31 **41-6a-2005**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 276

32 **41-6a-2006**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 447

33 **72-1-212**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 267



35 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

36 Section 1. Section **41-6a-2003** is amended to read:

37 **41-6a-2003. Automatic license plate reader systems -- Restrictions.**

38 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a governmental entity may not use an  
39 automatic license plate reader system.

40 (2) ~~[An]~~ Subject to Subsection (3), an automatic license plate reader system may be  
41 used:

42 (a) by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of protecting public safety, conducting  
43 criminal investigations, or ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws;

44 (b) by a governmental parking enforcement entity for the purpose of enforcing state  
45 and local parking laws;

46 (c) by a parking enforcement entity for regulating the use of a parking facility;

47 (d) for the purpose of controlling access to a secured area;

48 (e) for the purpose of collecting an electronic toll;

49 (f) for the purpose of enforcing motor carrier laws;

50 (g) by a public transit district for the purpose of assessing parking needs and  
51 conducting a travel pattern analysis;

52 (h) by an institution of higher education within the state system of higher education as  
53 described in Section **53B-1-102**:

54 (i) for a purpose described in Subsections (2)(a) through (d); or

55 (ii) if the data collected is anonymized, for research and educational purposes; or

56 (i) by the Utah Inland Port Authority, created in Section **11-58-201**, or by a contractor  
57 of the Utah Inland Port Authority with the approval of the board of the Utah Inland Port  
58 Authority, if:

59 (i) the automatic license plate reader system is used only within a project area, as  
60 defined in Section [11-58-102](#), of the Utah Inland Port Authority;

61 (ii) the purpose of using the automatic license plate reader system is to improve supply  
62 chain efficiency or the efficiency of the movement of goods by analyzing and researching data  
63 related to commercial vehicle traffic; and

64 (iii) specific license plate information is anonymized.

65 (3) A law enforcement agency using a license plate reader system in accordance with  
66 Subsection (2) may not use an automatic license plate reader system unless:

67 (a) the law enforcement agency has a written policy regarding the use, management,  
68 and auditing of the automatic license plate reader system;

69 (b) for any stationary device installed with the purpose of capturing license plate data  
70 of vehicles traveling on a state highway, the law enforcement agency obtains a special use  
71 permit as described in Section [72-1-212](#) from the Department of Transportation before  
72 installing the device; and

73 (c) the policy under Subsection (3)(a) and any special use permits granted in  
74 accordance with Subsection (3)(b) are:

75 (i) posted and publicly available on the appropriate city, county, or state website; or

76 (ii) posted on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section [63A-16-601](#) if the law  
77 enforcement agency does not have access to a website under Subsection (3)(c)(i).

78 Section 2. Section **41-6a-2005** is amended to read:

79 **41-6a-2005. Preservation request.**

80 (1) A person or governmental entity using an automatic license plate reader system  
81 shall take all steps necessary to preserve captured plate data in its possession for 14 days after  
82 the date the data is captured pending the issuance of a court order requiring the disclosure of  
83 the captured plate data if a governmental entity or defendant in a criminal case requesting the  
84 captured plate data submits a written statement to the person or governmental entity using an  
85 automatic license plate reader system:

86 (a) requesting the person or governmental entity to preserve the captured plate data;

87 (b) identifying:

88 (i) the camera or cameras for which captured plate data shall be preserved;

89 (ii) the license plate for which captured plate data shall be preserved; or

90 (iii) the dates and time frames for which captured plate data shall be preserved; and

91 (c) notifying the person or governmental entity maintaining the captured plate data that  
92 the governmental entity or defendant in a criminal case is applying for a court order for  
93 disclosure of the captured plate data.

94 (2) (a) A governmental entity or defendant in a criminal case may apply for a court  
95 order for the disclosure of captured plate data possessed by a governmental entity.

96 (b) A court that is a court of competent jurisdiction shall issue a court order requiring  
97 the disclosure of captured plate data if the governmental entity or defendant in a criminal case  
98 offers specific and articulable facts showing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that  
99 the captured plate data is relevant and material to an ongoing criminal or missing person  
100 investigation.

101 (3) Captured plate data that is the subject of an application for a disclosure order under  
102 Subsection (2) may be destroyed at the later of:

103 (a) the date that an application for an order under Subsection (2) is denied and any  
104 appeal exhausted;

105 (b) the end of 14 days, if the person or governmental entity does not otherwise preserve  
106 the captured plate data; or

107 (c) the end of the period described in Subsection [41-6a-2004\(1\)\(c\)](#).

108 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), a governmental entity may enter into a  
109 memorandum of understanding with another governmental entity to share access to an  
110 automatic license plate reader system or captured license plate data otherwise authorized by  
111 this part.

112 [~~4~~] (5) (a) A governmental entity may obtain, receive, or use privately held captured  
113 plate data only[:] for the purposes authorized in Subsection [41-6a-2003\(2\)](#).

114 (b) A governmental entity shall maintain and dispose of any captured license plate data  
115 as provided in this part.

116 [~~(a) (i) pursuant to a warrant issued using the procedures described in the Utah Rules of~~  
117 ~~Criminal Procedure or an equivalent federal warrant; or]~~

118 [~~(ii) using the procedure described in Subsection (2); and]~~

119 [~~(b) if the private automatic license plate reader system retains captured plate data for~~  
120 ~~30 days or fewer.]~~

- 121 (6) (a) A law enforcement agency shall preserve a record of:
- 122 (i) the number of times a search of captured license plate data is conducted by the
- 123 agency, or the agency's employees or agents; and
- 124 (ii) the crime type and incident number associated with each search of captured license
- 125 plate data.
- 126 (b) A law enforcement agency shall preserve a record identified in Subsection (6)(a)
- 127 for at least five years.

128 Section 3. Section **41-6a-2006** is amended to read:

129 **41-6a-2006. Penalties.**

130 A person who [~~violates a provision under this part~~] knowingly or intentionally obtains

131 or discloses captured license plate data in violation of this part is guilty of a class B

132 misdemeanor.

133 Section 4. Section **72-1-212** is amended to read:

134 **72-1-212. Special use permitting -- Rulemaking.**

135 [~~(1) For purposes of this section, "special use permit" means a permit issued for a~~

136 ~~special use or a special event that takes place on a highway.]~~

137 (1) As used in this section:

138 (a) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section

139 [53-3-102](#).

140 (b) "Special use permit" means a permit issued:

- 141 (i) for a special use or a special event that takes place on a highway; or
- 142 (ii) to a law enforcement agency to install any stationary device with the purpose of
- 143 capturing license plate data of vehicles traveling on a state highway regardless of whether the
- 144 device is installed on property owned by the department or the law enforcement agency.

145 (2) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, and

146 in consultation with representatives of the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah

147 Association of Counties, the department shall make rules that are not inconsistent with this

148 chapter or the constitution and laws of this state or of the United States governing the issuance

149 of a special use permit to maintain public safety and serve the needs of the traveling public.

150 (3) The rules described in Subsection (2) may:

151 (a) establish the highways for which the highest number of special use permits are

152 issued;

153 (b) develop, in consultation with municipalities, a limit on the number of special use  
154 permits that may be issued in any calendar year on a particular highway;

155 (c) require a person to submit an application designated by the department before the  
156 department issues a special use permit;

157 (d) limit the number of special use permits issued on any one day for any specified  
158 location based on a first-come, first-served basis for completed applications;

159 (e) establish criteria for evaluating completed applications, such as historic use,  
160 potential economic benefit, or other relevant factors;

161 (f) specify conditions that are required to be met before a special use permit may be  
162 issued;

163 (g) establish a penalty for failure to fulfill conditions required by the special use permit,  
164 including suspension of the special use permit or suspension of a future special use permit;

165 (h) require an applicant to obtain insurance for certain special uses or special events; or

166 (i) provide other requirements to maintain public safety and serve the needs of the  
167 traveling public.

168 (4) The limit on the number of special use permits described in Subsection (3)(b) may  
169 not include:

170 (a) a special use permit issued for a municipality-sponsored special use or special  
171 event on a highway within the jurisdiction of the municipality[?]; or

172 (b) a special use permit issued to a law enforcement agency to install a device as part of  
173 an automatic license plate reader system authorized by Section [41-6a-2003](#).

174 (5) The rules described in Subsection (2) shall consider:

175 (a) traveler safety and mobility;

176 (b) the safety of special use or special event participants;

177 (c) emergency access;

178 (d) the mobility of residents close to the event or use;

179 (e) access and economic impact to businesses affected by changes to the normal  
180 operation of highway traffic; [~~and~~]

181 (f) past performance of an applicant's adherence to special use permit requirements[?];

182 and

183 (g) whether a law enforcement agency applying for a special use permit has published a  
184 policy online as required by Section [41-6a-2003](#).

185 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the department may require a  
186 law enforcement agency applying for a special use permit described in this section to obtain an  
187 encroachment permit.

188 [~~6~~] (7) The department shall adopt a fee schedule in accordance with Section  
189 [63J-1-504](#) that reflects the cost of services provided by the department associated with special  
190 use permits and with special uses or special events that take place on a highway.

191 (8) For a device installed in accordance with Section [41-6a-2003](#), the installation,  
192 maintenance, data retrieved, and removal are the responsibility of the law enforcement agency  
193 that obtains the special use permit.