



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5449

LCO No. 2674



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section and
2 sections 2 and 3 of this act:

3 (1) "Automated license plate reader system" means a mobile or fixed
4 electronic image recording device that is capable, in combination with
5 computer programs or algorithms, of converting images of license
6 plates into computer-readable data;

7 (2) "Automated license plate reader data" includes any data captured,
8 recorded, stored, processed or derived from an automated license plate
9 reader system, including, but not limited to, license plate characters,
10 vehicle still or video images, vehicle attributes, location data, time
11 stamps and metadata;

12 (3) "Gender-affirming health care services" has the same meaning as
13 provided in section 52-571m of the general statutes;

14 (4) "Hotlist" means a list of registration numbers displayed on license
15 plates maintained for comparison against a registration number
16 obtained by an automated license plate reader system;

17 (5) "Law enforcement agency" means a department or agency for
18 which a law enforcement officer is an employee of or otherwise paid by
19 or acting as an agent of, including, but not limited to, a municipal police
20 department or the Division of State Police within the Department of
21 Emergency Services and Public Protection;

22 (6) "Public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
23 200 of the general statutes; and

24 (7) "Reproductive health care services" has the same meaning as
25 provided in section 52-571m of the general statutes.

26 (b) (1) On and after October 1, 2026, no public agency or law
27 enforcement agency may operate an automated license plate reader
28 system or use automated license plate reader data, except as follows:

29 (A) A public agency may operate an automated license plate reader
30 system or use automated license plate reader data for the following
31 purposes: (i) Performing weigh station duties; (ii) monitoring or
32 maintaining the agency's vehicles or equipment; or (iii) assisting in the
33 control of access to a secured area; and

34 (B) A law enforcement agency may operate an automated license
35 plate reader system or use automated license plate reader data for the
36 following purposes: (i) Comparing such data with (I) data contained in
37 a hotlist, (II) records of the Connecticut Online Law Enforcement
38 Communications Teleprocessing System, (III) data contained in the
39 Federal Bureau of Investigations Kidnapping and Missing Persons list,
40 (IV) data contained in the Connecticut Criminal Justice Information
41 System, or (V) data contained in the Federal Terrorist Screening
42 Database; (ii) entering a license plate number into an automated license
43 plate reader system upon a law enforcement officer's determination that

44 data in the system may (I) be relevant and material to a specific active
45 investigation of a criminal offense in which there is reasonable suspicion
46 that the offense has been or is being committed, provided any access by
47 an officer of automated license plate reader data for such purpose shall
48 result in a record of the factual basis for the access and any associated
49 case number for the complaint or incident that is being investigated and
50 is the basis for the access, (II) assist in the apprehension of an individual
51 with an outstanding felony warrant, (III) assist in locating a missing or
52 endangered individual, or (IV) assist in the recovery of a stolen motor
53 vehicle.

54 (2) Any automated license plate reader data collected or held by a
55 public agency or law enforcement agency shall not be retained for a
56 period in excess of seven days, unless such data is being retained (A)
57 pursuant to warrant or court order issued by a judge or magistrate on
58 behalf of the state or federal judicial branches or pursuant to court rules
59 governing the preservation of evidence, or (B) for the purpose of
60 collecting highway usage fees if such fees exist, provided such data is
61 deleted not later than thirty days following the collection of such fees.

62 (c) On and after October 1, 2026, no public agency or law enforcement
63 agency operating an automated license plate reader system or using
64 automated license plate reader data pursuant to subsection (b) of this
65 section may:

66 (1) Use or assist in the use of automated license plate reader data to
67 monitor or investigate an individual based on such individual's actual
68 or perceived race, ethnicity, criminal history, sexual orientation, gender
69 identity or expression, sex, pregnancy status, disability, citizenship,
70 nationality or income level;

71 (2) Use or assist in the use of an automated license plate reader data
72 system or automated license plate reader data for the purpose of
73 identifying an individual engaged in an activity protected under the
74 First Amendment to the United States Constitution;

75 (3) Use or assist in the use of an automated license plate reader data
76 system or automated license plate reader data for the purpose of
77 investigating a suspected immigration violation or otherwise assisting
78 in any civil or criminal immigration enforcement activity;

79 (4) Use or assist in the use of an automated license plate reader data
80 system or automated license plate reader data for the purpose of
81 investigating or prosecuting any individual who has sought, received,
82 or provided reproductive health care services or gender-affirming
83 health care services;

84 (5) Collect automated license plate reader data on the premises or
85 within a distance established by the Police Officer Standards and
86 Training Council pursuant to section 2 of this act, of a reproductive or
87 sexual health facility, as defined in section 42-515 of the general statutes,
88 facility that primarily provides gender-affirming health care services or
89 a nonprofit or community organization that primarily serves immigrant
90 communities, excluding any property under federal jurisdiction;

91 (6) Share or provide access to automated license plate reader data,
92 unless the individual or entity requesting such data or access is (A) a
93 public agency or law enforcement agency of this state, (B) a law
94 enforcement agency of the state of New York or Rhode Island or the
95 Commonwealth of Massachusetts or a municipality of said states or
96 commonwealth, provided such requesting law enforcement agency
97 provides a written declaration affirming that any data received will be
98 used in compliance with the prohibitions set forth in this section, and
99 will not be used for an immigration investigation or enforcement action
100 or to investigate or prosecute any individual who has sought, received
101 or provided reproductive health care services or gender-affirming
102 health care services and will not be further disclosed except as permitted
103 by law; (C) any other law enforcement agency other than those of this
104 state or described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, including any
105 federal law enforcement agency, if such requesting law enforcement
106 agency has a judicially issued probable cause warrant for the specific

107 data requested, or is requesting specific data on an individual identified
108 as a possible match in the Federal Terrorist Screening Database; or (D)
109 is an individual requesting data regarding a motor vehicle registered in
110 such individual's name, provided if a motor vehicle has more than one
111 owner, lessor or regular user, all such owners, lessors and regular users
112 join in the request and are natural persons;

113 (7) Participate in a system or network that shares automated license
114 plate reader data, or provide to, or access such data through any
115 multistate, intrastate, or national data-sharing system or network unless
116 such system or network requires, as a condition of participation in or
117 access to such system or network, execution of a written declaration by
118 each participant affirming that: (A) Any data obtained will be used
119 solely in compliance with this section and other laws of this state; and
120 (B) such participant will not share or use such data, except in compliance
121 with the provisions of this section; and

122 (8) Permit a public agency to have real-time, bulk or automatic access
123 to automated license plate reader data, unless such data is in response
124 to a documented, case-specific request and the sharing of such data is
125 not otherwise prohibited under this subsection.

126 (d) Automated license plate reader data shall not be disclosable under
127 the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to chapter 14 of the general
128 statutes. Any of the following information shall be disclosable pursuant
129 to said act:

130 (1) Locations of any still or video image recording device used as part
131 of an automated license plate reader system; and

132 (2) Any data, other than automated license plate reader data, derived
133 from any audit of an automated license plate reader system, usage logs
134 for such system and logs detailing access to automated license plate
135 reader data, provided any such data disclosable under this subsection
136 has all automated license plate reader data redacted from otherwise
137 disclosable data.

138 (e) Not later than January 1, 2027, a public agency, other than a law
139 enforcement agency, that operates an automated license plate reader
140 system or uses automated license plate reader data shall adopt and
141 publicize a written automated license plate reader system usage and
142 privacy policy prior to using or acquiring an automated license plate
143 reader system or automated license plate reader data. Such policy shall
144 comply with all applicable provisions of this section and include
145 safeguards and standards substantially equivalent to those required
146 under the model policy adopted under section 2 of this act.

147 (f) (1) On and after the effective date of this section, no public agency
148 or law enforcement agency may enter into any contract or agreement
149 with a private vendor that accesses an automated license plate reader
150 system or stores, processes, transmits or accesses automated license
151 plate reader data on behalf of the public agency or law enforcement
152 agency, for the purpose of selling, sharing, transferring, disseminating
153 or otherwise providing access to such data except as expressly
154 authorized by this section.

155 (2) On and after the effective date of this section, any contract or
156 agreement entered into between a public agency or law enforcement
157 agency and a private vendor for the purpose of the provision of services
158 associated with the use of an automated license plate reader system or
159 use or storage of automated license plate reader data shall expressly
160 require such vendor comply with the provisions of this section in the
161 same manner as such provisions are applicable to the contracting public
162 agency or law enforcement agency and shall expressly prohibit the
163 vendor from retaining, using or disclosing automated license plate
164 reader data for any purpose other than in fulfilling the vendor's
165 contractual obligations.

166 (3) Any vendor that entered into a contract or an agreement pursuant
167 to this subsection shall be considered an agent of the contracting public
168 agency or law enforcement agency for purposes of services provided
169 pursuant to the contract or agreement and shall be subject to the same

170 provisions of this section as are applicable to such public agency or law
171 enforcement agency.

172 (g) On and after October 1, 2026, a public agency or law enforcement
173 agency may be subject to an action by any aggrieved individual for
174 injunctive or declaratory relief, including a determination of past
175 violations, if an officer, employee or other individual otherwise paid by
176 or acting as an agent of such agency violates any provision of subsection
177 (b), (c) or (d) of this section. Such action may be brought in the superior
178 court for the judicial district in which the aggrieved individual resides.
179 If an aggrieved individual prevails and an order of injunctive relief is
180 issued, such aggrieved individual may be entitled to recover court costs
181 and reasonable attorney's fees associated only with an action or that
182 portion of an action concerning a request and order for injunctive relief.
183 An action under this subsection shall be privileged with respect to
184 assignment for trial.

185 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December 1,
186 2026, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall adopt a
187 model policy governing law enforcement agency acquisition and use of
188 automated license plate reader systems and automated license plate
189 reader data. Such policy shall direct agencies to act in accordance with
190 section 1 of this act, including permissible and prohibited uses of such
191 system and any automated license plate reader data, whether derived
192 from such system or acquired in any other manner. In addition to
193 detailing such permissible and prohibited uses of such system or data,
194 such policy shall, at a minimum: (1) Develop standards for the use of a
195 hotlist, including the sources from which a hotlist may be compiled,
196 supervisory approval requirements for use and management of, access
197 to and validation procedures for the data on any hotlist, including time
198 limitations for the inclusion of such data on a hotlist, (2) provide for data
199 retention limits in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
200 section 1 of this act, (3) establish data access and sharing requirements
201 in accordance with subsection (c) of section 1 of this act, including
202 internal access controls and supervisory review and conditions under

203 which such data may be shared with other public agencies or law
204 enforcement agencies, (4) provide for a supervisory responsibility and
205 accountability structure, including designation of an officer or unit
206 responsible for oversight of automated license plate reader system use
207 and compliance with any policy adopted in accordance with the
208 provisions of this section, (5) establish training requirements, including
209 initial and periodic training for any officer or employee authorized to
210 access the system or data, (6) establish audit and logging requirements,
211 including the creation and retention of access logs sufficient to ensure
212 compliance and facilitate independent review, (7) establish public
213 transparency standards and requirements, including publication of
214 agency-specific usage policies for an automated license plate reader
215 system and annual statistical reports detailing such usage, (8) establish
216 the distance described in subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 1 of
217 this act, and (9) contain provisions concerning compliance with
218 subsection (f) of section 1 of this act concerning contracting with
219 vendors for services associated with access to an automated license plate
220 reader system or storage of, processing of, transmission of, or access to
221 automated license plate reader data.

222 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, each law enforcement agency shall
223 adopt and implement the policy developed pursuant to subsection (a)
224 of this section, or a policy that provides greater privacy protections than
225 that which are in the policy developed pursuant to said subsection (a).
226 Such policy shall be in effect until regulations are adopted pursuant to
227 this section, at which point such policy shall be supplanted by any such
228 regulation.

229 (c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Emergency
230 Services and Public Protection shall, in consultation with the Police
231 Officer Standards and Training Council, adopt regulations, in
232 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
233 enact a policy that at a minimum, satisfies the provisions of subdivisions
234 (1) to (9), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section and section 1 of this
235 act.

236 (2) Not later than January 1, 2033, and at least once during each five-
237 year period thereafter, the commissioner shall, in consultation with the
238 Police Officer Standards and Training Council, adopt regulations in
239 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.
240 Such regulations shall (A) comply with the provisions of this section and
241 section 1 of this act and shall not reduce or limit the protections afforded
242 by said sections or any minimum standards established by said sections,
243 and (B) be based on a consideration of any changes in law, technology
244 and best practices since the previous adoption of regulations pursuant
245 to this section.

246 (3) Any regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall be binding
247 upon all law enforcement agencies.

248 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Police Officer Standards
249 and Training Council, in consultation with the Commissioner of
250 Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Institute for
251 Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut, shall
252 develop and promulgate a standardized form for reporting automated
253 license plate reader system usage, including, but not limited to, (1) the
254 number of (A) license plates scanned, (B) searches performed by the law
255 enforcement agency and the reason for the search, (C) matches that
256 resulted in an arrest and conviction, (D) stolen motor vehicles and stolen
257 license plates recovered due to the use of an automated license plate
258 reader system, (E) times automated license plate reader data was shared
259 with or accessed by another entity, the identity of each of those entities
260 and the reason for sharing the data, and (F) times automated license
261 plate reader data was shared or accessed pursuant to a judicial warrant,
262 and (2) any changes to the law enforcement agency's data collection,
263 retention or sharing policies that affect privacy of automated license
264 plate reader data.

265 (b) Each law enforcement agency shall, not later than January thirty-
266 first following a calendar year during which the law enforcement
267 agency used an automated license plate reader system pursuant to

268 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act, submit a report detailing such
269 usage to the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The
270 University of Connecticut using the standardized form promulgated
271 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and publish such report on the
272 law enforcement agency's Internet web site.

273 (c) Not later than January thirty-first of each year, any public agency,
274 other than a law enforcement agency, that uses an automated license
275 plate reader system or automated license plate reader system pursuant
276 to subsection (b) of section 1 of this act, shall publish on the agency's
277 Internet web site an annual report containing the information described
278 in subsection (a) of this section as it pertains to such agency for the
279 previous calendar year.

280 (d) Not later than July 30, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Institute
281 for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut
282 shall, within available resources, compile, analyze and summarize the
283 reports submitted pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this subsection and
284 shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, a
285 consolidated report regarding automated license plate reader system
286 usage and any recommendations for legislation to the Governor and the
287 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
288 of matters relating to public safety and the judiciary.

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|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To regulate the use of automated license plate reader systems and safeguard data derived from such systems.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]