



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
The Forum for America's Ideas

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Nonprofit, bi-partisan organization.

- Members are all 90 state legislatures, 7,400 legislators and 30,000 legislative staff in 50 states, D.C. and U.S. territories.

Offices in Denver and D.C.

Among our goals - To provide legislatures with information and research about policy issues, both state and federal.

NCSL tracks state policy developments in all public policy areas.

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Presentation Outline

- What is Automated Enforcement?
- Is red light running a serious traffic safety issue?
- Automated Enforcement Laws Overview
- Research on Effectiveness/ Challenges

Automated Enforcement Definitions

- **Automated enforcement** - Photo radar and red light cameras often are referred to as automated enforcement technology.
- **Red light cameras** - These devices, installed at intersections, are connected to sensors. The sensors, synchronized with the traffic lights, can detect vehicles driving through intersections on red lights. The sensors trigger the cameras that record the day, time and place of the violation. The photos are then used to determine the vehicle owner and a citation is mailed.
- **Photo radar** - This term describes radar devices that detect speeders, then trigger cameras. Typically, the camera takes two photos, one of the vehicle front and one of the back.



Red Light Running- T I & ~Safety h e

- According to FHWA, in 2008, there were more than 23 million reported intersection-related crashes, approximately 733,000 injury crashes, and more than 7,770 fatalities.
- 676 people were killed in 2009 and 113,000 people were injured from red light running. (From federal FARS data)
- Nearly two-thirds of the deaths were people other than the red light running driver — occupants of other vehicles, passengers in the red light runners' vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians.



Automated Enforcement Laws Overview

- In 1992, there were a few states (Arizona, California and Texas) conducting pilot projects using photo radar enforcement. NHTSA conducted first large pilot program in New Jersey.
- In 2000, about 25 communities were using red light cameras for enforcement.
 - In 2011--red light cameras are used in approximately 554 communities, and speed cameras are used in more than 104 jurisdictions. In most cases, state legislatures have passed enabling statutes that allow city and local governments to use the cameras.



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Automated Enforcement Laws Overview

■ Allow red light camera use statewide
■ Prohibit red light camera use by statute
■ Allow red light camera use in some municipalities
■ No red light camera use laws

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Automated Enforcement Laws Overview

- In most states the citation is issued to the registered owner of the vehicle. (In Oregon, the citation can be issued to the driver if the driver is identifiable.)
- In most states, the registered owner is liable for the ticket.
 But—in California, Colorado, Rhode Island and Virginia the Driver is liable for the ticket.

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Automated Enforcement Laws Overview

What images are taken when the camera takes an offender's picture?

- Colorado and California allow images of the tag and driver
- Other states limit the photograph to only be taken of the vehicle and tag (DE, IL, MD, NJ, NY, TX, WA)
- GA takes a photograph of the tag, intersection and light. TN takes a picture of front tires before the stop line and rear tires past the stop line both while signal is red. (Passed in 2011)

Automated Enforcement: Penalties

Minimum fines in NY and VA (\$50)

- Fines in most states \$75 to \$175.
- Most states do not assess drivers license points against the motorist. Exceptions: AZ and CA.
- Many states have in statute that the citation shall not be used by insurers against the driver.



Automated Enforcement: 2011 State Action

28 states introduced 107 bill. related to automated enforcement in 2011.

AZ, FL, MO and SD introduced legislation to prohibit cities from using red light cameras (none passed).

- Texas passed a bill allowing for automated enforcement at toll booths.

Illinois passed a bill clarifying that a lessor of a vehicle will not be liable for a red light infraction if they can prove the lessee was the driver.



Automated Enforcement; 2011 State Action

California Senate Bill 29

- identifying the system by signs posted within 200 feet of an intersection where a system is operating.
- The bill would require the governmental agency that operates an automated traffic enforcement system to develop uniform guidelines for specified purposes and to establish procedures to ensure compliance with those guidelines.
- The bill would prohibit a governmental agency that proposes to install or operate an automated traffic enforcement system from considering revenue generation, beyond recovering its actual costs of operating the system, as a factor when considering whether or not to install or operate a system within its local jurisdiction.

Governor Brown Vetoes SB 29



Challenges

- "Like speed traps-photo enforcement is designed to make money, not protect the public."
 - Many states have introduced bills designating any revenue from red light cameras go back into safety campaigns.
 - Many states require signage warning motorists of camera use in upcoming intersections



Challenges

- "Why don't you just increase the time of yellow lights in dangerous intersections?"
 - Studies have shown that increasing yellow light times can be effective in reducing intersection crashes.
 - IIHS study found that red light violations in Philadelphia were reduced by 36 percent following increased yellow light timing; the addition of red light cameras reduced red light violations by 96 percent.



Challenges

- Illinois
 - Chicago Tribune ran article in 2009 that showed motorists getting citations for not stopping the required number of seconds before turning on red or stopping in front of the crosswalk line.
 - Passed 2010 resolution encouraged municipalities with red light cameras to not issue tickets to motorists who properly execute right turns at red lights. In 2011, IL introduced, but did not pass, a bill that would prohibit any municipalities from issuing red light citations for right turns.
- Florida
 - AAA Auto Club South urged Florida Governor to veto Florida bill last year.


