



Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff

HB16-1231

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0054
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Lebsack
Sen. Carroll

Date: February 22, 2016
Bill Status: House Transportation and Energy
Fiscal Analyst: Erin Reynolds (303-866-4146)

BILL TOPIC: RESTRICTING THE USE OF RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Summary of Legislation

This bill limits the authority of state and local governments to use automated vehicle identification systems at traffic signals (red light cameras) to detect violations. Under the bill, red light cameras may only be used within a school zone, a construction or repair zone, or on a major roadway intended to serve through traffic. The bill requires any governmental entity that assesses fines using a red light camera to use that revenue solely for traffic safety improvements, enforcement, and other related purposes.

Background

Veto of House Bill 15-1098 and Senate Bill 15-276. In 2015, two bills that related to the use of automated vehicle identification systems (AVIS) were vetoed by the Governor. HB15-1098, as enrolled into an act, would have directed state and local governments to obtain voter approval before using AVIS. SB15-276, as enrolled into an act, would have prohibited the issuance of a traffic citation based on the use of AVIS, with certain exceptions. In the veto letters, the Governor encouraged the General Assembly to enact legislation in 2016 that limits AVIS to school and construction zones, and areas with disproportionately high traffic and pedestrian accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Further, the letter suggested that fine revenue be used solely for traffic safety improvements and enforcement.

Current state law regulating red light cameras. The maximum original penalty for a red light violation detected by AVIS is established in statute at \$75. Subsequent fees may apply due to failure to respond, personal service, and default. In the case of default, the penalty may be sent to a collection agency. Governmental entities are not permitted to enforce a penalty by immobilizing a vehicle or reporting it to the Division of Motor Vehicles. AVIS cannot be used to detect a red light camera violation unless a sign is posted to notify the public that such a system is in use. A penalty assessment notice or summons must be delivered within 90 days of the alleged violation.

There are limits on the use of speed photo radar enforcement that do not apply to red light cameras, which limit the use of speed photo radar to school zones, residential neighborhoods, within maintenance, construction, or repair zones, or along a street that borders a municipal park.

Departments of Transportation and Public Safety. The state does not currently use AVIS to enforce state traffic laws and does not collect penalty revenue from such activities.

Assumptions

Because the bill permits the use of red light cameras in school zones, construction or repair zones, and, in particular, on major roadways intended to serve through traffic, the fiscal note assumes that local governments that have adopted ordinances approving the use of red light cameras will continue to utilize AVIS technology to promote intersection safety at similar rates. The Local Government section provides information on current red light camera use.

Local Government Impact

Beginning in the current fiscal year, FY 2015-16, local government fine revenue from red light camera violations captured through AVIS may fluctuate. For informational purposes, Table 1 shows a two-year average of revenue collected and costs incurred by the eight municipalities that currently use red light cameras. Expenditures generally include equipment maintenance and ticket processing.

Table 1. Two-Year Average Revenue and Expenditures from Municipal Use of Red Light Cameras <i>Numbers are rounded</i>			
City	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Revenue
Aurora	\$3.2 million	\$1.9 million	\$1.3 million
Boulder*	1.1 million	863,000	219,000
Commerce City	383,000	224,000	158,000
Denver*	905,000	440,000	465,000
Fort Collins*	410,000	280,000	130,000
Greenwood Village	338,000	283,000	54,000
Lone Tree	135,000	78,000	56,000
Pueblo	138,000	126,000	12,000
Totals	\$7.5 million	\$4.9 million	\$2.6 million

* Expenditure data specific to red light camera use in Boulder, Denver, and Fort Collins, where speed photo radar is also used, was not available at the time of writing, so these expenditure totals were extrapolated proportionally to revenue totals in each category.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Municipalities
Transportation

Information Technology
Public Safety

Judicial
Revenue

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB 16-1231 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.