



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 4013	Introduced on February 13, 2025
Subject:	Automated License Plate Readers	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Griffith	
Impact Date:	April 15, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows certain entities to use an automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system and provides compliance requirements for the use of the system. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a permitting process for the installation of cameras on non-interstate highway rights of way.

This bill will have no expenditure impact to DOT since the agency currently has a process in place to permit ALPR systems.

Based on a response from similar legislation, the bill will have no expenditure impact to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) because the bill does not operationally affect the agency.

This bill will increase General Fund expenditures of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) by \$310,000 in FY 2025-26 and by \$300,000 each year thereafter in order to activate the ALPR capabilities of its current devices. DPS will request a General Fund appropriation increase for these expenditures.

There is no expenditure impact to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), as any increase in workload can be managed with existing resources and appropriations.

DPS indicates that a study conducted over a twelve-month period by the Cincinnati Police Department found that officers with vehicles equipped with ALPR capabilities identified more violations and issued more fines than those without ALPR capabilities. This bill may increase fine and fee revenue. However, the total amount will depend on the number and type of violations issued and the amount of the fines collected.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all county governments and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) regarding the fiscal impact of this bill. Florence, Horry, Oconee, and Richland Counties do not anticipate an expenditure impact due to the bill. MASC reports that twenty-two municipalities have utilized ALPR systems in recent years and that the expenditure impact on municipalities will depend on the scope of the change needed to achieve compliance. Additionally, the expenditure impact on municipalities that may choose to install cameras on non-interstate rights of way is undetermined and will depend on the complexity of the permitting process and the fees assessed by DOT.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 13, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill allows certain entities to use an ALPR system and provides compliance requirements for the use of the system. Entities who may use ALPR systems include:

- State, county, or municipal law enforcement agencies for the comparison of license plate data held by the National Crime Information Center or other database or hot list, and for other law enforcement or criminal justice purposes and
- DPS and DOT, to collect tolls and to provide for the efficient and safe movement of vehicle on state highways.

Additionally, the bill requires DOT to establish a permitting process for the installation of cameras on non-interstate highway rights of way.

Department of Transportation. This bill will have no expenditure impact to DOT since the agency currently has a process in place to permit ALPR systems.

Department of Motor Vehicles. Based on a response from similar legislation, this bill will have no expenditure impact to DMV because the bill does not operationally affect the agency.

Department of Public Safety. DPS reports that the agency currently has devices with ALPR capabilities that are not being utilized. DPS further reports that the cost to activate ALPR capabilities in all of the agency's current in-car capable camera systems is estimated at \$300,000 per year. These costs include connection costs for databases, user subscriptions, annual maintenance, secure data storage, and other miscellaneous recurring costs. Nonrecurring expenses of \$10,000 will be used for two administrative laptops and a desktop with associated monitors. In total, General Fund expenditures of DPS will increase by \$310,000 in FY 2025-26 and by \$300,000 each year after. DPS will request a General Fund appropriation increase for these expenditures.

State Law Enforcement Division. SLED indicates that any increase in workload due to the provisions of the bill can be managed with existing staff and appropriations. Therefore, there is no expenditure impact to SLED.

State Revenue

This bill allows certain entities to use an automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system and provides compliance requirements for the use of the system. DPS indicates that a study conducted over a twelve-month period by the Cincinnati Police Department found that officers with vehicles equipped with ALPR capabilities identified more violations and issued more fines than those without ALPR capabilities. While the bill may increase fine and fee revenue, the amount will depend on the number and type of violations issued and the amount of the fines collected.

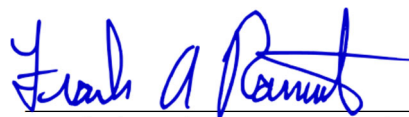
Local Expenditure

RFA contacted county governments and the MASC regarding the fiscal impact of this bill. Florence, Horry, Oconee, and Richland Counties do not anticipate an expenditure impact due to the bill. The MASC reports that twenty-two municipalities have utilized ALPR systems in recent years and that these municipalities will need to ensure that their policies and procedures comply with the requirements of the bill. However, the expenditure impact will be dependent on the scope of the change needed to achieve compliance.

Additionally, municipalities are subject to the camera permitting requirement on non-interstate highway rights of way. MASC indicates that municipalities that may choose to install cameras on non-interstate DOT rights of way may have an increase in expenditures. However, the increase in expenditures will depend on the complexity of the permitting process and the amount of any fees assessed by DOT. Therefore, the overall expenditure impact on municipalities is undetermined.

Local Revenue

N/A



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