HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1058 **DATE:** March 20, 2007

Version: First Engrossment

Authors: Thissen and others

Subject: Automated traffic enforcement

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Overview

This bill allows local units of government to establish an automated traffic enforcement program to enforce traffic control signals, and sets up requirements for such a program.

Section

1   **Automated traffic law enforcement system.** Defines an automated traffic law enforcement system to be a camera or sensor connected to a traffic control device that is designed to record motor vehicles at intersections.

2   **Record images.** Defines recorded images as those images recorded by an automated traffic law enforcement system.

3   **Violation; penalty for owner or lessee.** Makes a violation of traffic control signal regulations a petty misdemeanor for the vehicle owner or lessee when the violation is recorded by an automated traffic law enforcement system. Establishes exemptions when:

- there is a police report documenting that the vehicle was stolen;

- a lessor can demonstrate that the vehicle is leased; and

- the vehicle owner can demonstrate that the vehicle was sold prior to the violation.

Provides that the vehicle owner cannot be convicted if the driver of the vehicle is convicted

Section

for the same violation. Prohibits (1) the use of a conviction under this section as grounds for license revocation and suspension and (2) the commissioner from recording a conviction on a driver's record.

4   **Signal violation detected with automated traffic law enforcement system.** Authorizes and establishes general requirements for an automated traffic law enforcement system.

Subd. 1. Local authority. Authorizes local units of government to implement an automated enforcement program that issues citations for traffic-signal violations. Establishes program prerequisites, so that the program must:

- be limited to enforcement of traffic-control devices;
- include police department inspection of recorded images before issuing the citation;
- allow citations to be issued through the mail;
- note in the Department of Public Safety driver's record that the citation was from an automated enforcement device;
- include signage in conformity with state standards that indicates to motorists that automated enforcement is in place;
- perform engineering reviews prior to installing cameras.

Subd. 2. Fines. Requires that fines imposed through automated enforcement must be the same amount as equivalent fines from a peace officer citation. Directs fine revenue to be credited to the local unit of government.

Subd. 3. Data. Requires automated enforcement program data collected by a private company operating under contract to be subject to state data privacy laws.

Subd. 4. Contract. Prohibits a contract with a private entity that bases payment on the amount of tickets issued.

5   **Effective date.** Makes the bill effective the day after final enactment.