



2074 Park Street  
Suite L  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-523-9146

**To: Public Safety and Security Committee Members**

**From: David J. McGuire, ACLU-CT Staff Attorney**

**Written Testimony Opposing  
Raised Bill No. 6484  
An Act Establishing an Automated Vehicle Insurance Identification System**

This testimony summarizes the ACLU of Connecticut's concerns about the use of Automated License Plate Recognition Systems (ALPRs). The use of ALPRs, even for verifying vehicle insurance, puts innocent citizens' privacy at risk and raises due process concerns.

ALPRs identify, catalogue, and store the license plate numbers of every vehicle in their range, regardless of whether the operator of that vehicle is engaged in or suspected of a wrongful act or not. The newest ALPRs can process one plate per second or nearly 30,000 plates for every eight-hour shift. The information from ALPRs can be used to track the location and path of a vehicle, providing whomever can access the data with far more information than whether a vehicle is insured.

The vast majority of vehicles and vehicle operators on the road are not engaged in illegal activity. This proposed data mining is not based upon any indication of suspicious conduct and does not adequately serve legitimate law enforcement interests. The potentially broad and abusive use of data collected by ALPRs, which has occurred in other U.S. jurisdictions, threatens innocent citizens with unnecessary and intrusive surveillance thus invading their right to privacy. The significant privacy and due process risks make ALPRs an improper law enforcement tool.

Maine<sup>1</sup> and New Hampshire<sup>2</sup> have laws restricting or limiting the use of ALPRs. Under Maine law police can only keep data for 21 days, police can only enter license numbers for searching based on reasonable suspicion or official bulletins, data captured by ALPR is confidential, and there is a penalty for misuse of technology. New Hampshire prohibits the use of automated number plate scanning devices.

ALPRs are a perfect example of how technology has gotten ahead of our law. It demonstrates the need for comprehensive privacy legislation in Connecticut. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our position on this matter or would like additional information.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-a/title29-Asec2117-A.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rfa/html/xxi/261/261-75-b.htm>