



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 115

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 232

Senate, March 26, 2024

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS WITH AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Automated number plate recognition system" means a system of
4 one or more mobile or fixed electronic devices that is capable of
5 recording data on, or taking a photograph of, a vehicle or its number
6 plate and comparing the collected data and photographs to existing law
7 enforcement databases for investigative purposes; and

8 (2) "Law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in
9 section 7-294a of the general statutes.

10 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
11 thereafter, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
12 shall, within available appropriations, administer a program to provide

13 grants to law enforcement units to obtain automated number plate
14 recognition systems.

15 (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the department shall develop
16 eligibility criteria to be used in selecting among applications from law
17 enforcement units for such grants, develop application forms and
18 deadlines and post in a conspicuous location on the department's
19 Internet web site a description of the grant program that includes, but is
20 not limited to, such criteria, forms and deadlines.

21 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
22 department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
23 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
24 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
25 safety and security. Such report shall include information for the
26 preceding calendar year on the number of applications for grants that
27 were received, the number of grants that were awarded and a list of the
28 law enforcement units that received grants.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipal Police Departments	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to administer a program to provide grants to law enforcement units to obtain automated number plate recognition system, results in a potential cost to the state and potential savings to various municipal police departments in FY 25 and FY 26, to the extent that grants are awarded. Such potential cost is contingent upon funding being made available for the grant program.¹

It is expected that DESPP can administer this program with existing staff.

Automated number plate recognition systems can vary widely in cost

¹The bill does not allocate funds from any source. Historically, DESPP has received funds for similar programs from a variety of sources including appropriations, bond authorizations, and federal funds (including ARPA). If DESPP receives state funding, it is assumed to be a general fund appropriation or bond authorization.

depending on the requirements of the law enforcement unit. Cameras, if purchased outright, typically cost about \$20,000 each but can range from \$10,000 to \$40,000. Alternatively, the cameras can be leased for about \$2,000 to \$4,000 each per year. For both options, there are additional ongoing maintenance and data storage expenses. A grant awarded to a law enforcement unit covering the initial purchase of a system with 10 cameras² will cost about \$200,000.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to funding being made available for the grant program.

²The number of cameras that a law enforcement unit requires will vary widely depending on the unit's jurisdiction and may range from about five to over 100.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 232*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS WITH AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEMS.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning with FY 25, this bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to, annually and within available appropriations, administer a program to provide grants to law enforcement units to obtain “automated number plate recognition systems” (i.e., systems of at least one mobile or fixed electronic device that can record data on, or take photographs of, a vehicle or its number plate and compare the collected data and photographs to existing law enforcement databases for investigative purposes).

Under the bill, a “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime.

By October 1, 2024, the department must create eligibility criteria for awarding the grants, develop application forms and deadlines, and post a description of the program on DESPP’s website that includes the criteria, forms, and deadlines.

The bill also requires the department, starting by January 1, 2026, to annually report on the program to the Public Safety and Security Committee. The reports must include the following information for the prior calendar year: the number of applications received and grants

awarded, and a list of the law enforcement units that obtained grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 1 (03/12/2024)