

HB 4105 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to review and issue citations based on photographs taken by photo red light cameras or photographs taken by fixed photo radar cameras. Defines “duly authorized traffic enforcement agent” as being employed, appointed, and duly sworn by Oregon State Police, county sheriff, or city police department and having completed necessary training. Clarifies that duly authorized traffic enforcement agents are not police officers. Authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and make arguments in trials relating to citations issued by agent.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- City of Portland high crash corridors and public safety
- Vendor payments and services
- Relationship between agents and police departments
- Appeals process provisions for misidentification and language assistance
- Facial recognition technology not being used in Portland
- City liability
- Authority for cities to use photo red light and fixed photo radar cameras
- Applicability of measure to other cities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to review and issue citations based on photographs taken by photo red light cameras or photographs taken by fixed photo radar cameras. Defines “duly authorized traffic enforcement agent” as employed, appointed, and duly sworn in by governing body of incorporated city where agent performs duties and has completed necessary training. Clarifies that duly authorized traffic enforcement agents are not police officers. Authorizes duly authorized traffic enforcement agents to present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and make arguments in trials relating to citations issued by agent.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued.

BACKGROUND:

All cities in Oregon are authorized to operate cameras to provide for photo enforcement of violations for failure to obey a traffic control device. Using devices mounted on or near the traffic control device, cameras are used to record vehicles entering the intersection after the light has turned red. Following the review of the photographic evidence by a sworn police officer, a citation is issued by mail to the registered owner of the vehicle. Cities that choose to utilize photo enforcement of traffic control devices must conduct public information campaigns to inform drivers of the use of photo enforcement and must also conduct biennial process and outcome evaluations and report the results to the Legislative Assembly.

With the passage of House Bill 2409 (2017), cameras mounted for photo enforcement of red light violations may also be used to issue citations for speed limit violations.

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House Bill 2621 (2015) originally authorized the City of Portland to temporarily operate fixed photo radar systems located at specific intersections on urban high crash corridors. Fixed photo radar differs from regular photo radar enforcement in that it may be operated 24 hours per day at specified locations, while standard photo radar enforcement is allowed for only four hours per day in any specific location. Portland operates fixed photo radar at four locations:

- 122nd Avenue SE (northbound 5700 SE and southbound 5200 SE);
- Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway SW (westbound and eastbound 3600 SW);
- Division Street SE (westbound and eastbound 15000 SE); and
- Marine Drive NE (westbound 13300 NE, eastbound 2900 NE).

House Bill 2530 (2021) repealed the sunset and allows the City of Portland to continue to operate fixed photo radar on urban high crash corridors.

House Bill 4015 allows citations based on photographs taken by photo red light cameras or fixed photo radar cameras to be issued by police officers or by a duly authorized traffic enforcement agent of a law enforcement agency who has reviewed the photographic evidence and signed the citation.