SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1229

State of Washington66th Legislature2019 Regular SessionBy House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives
Caldier, Kilduff, Klippert, Pettigrew, Appleton, and Santos)

AN ACT Relating to photographs, microphotographs, and electronic images from traffic safety cameras and toll systems; and amending RCW 46.63.170, 46.63.160, and 47.56.795.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.63.170 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 44 s 406 are each 6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The use of automated traffic safety cameras for issuance of 8 notices of infraction is subject to the following requirements:

9 (a) The appropriate local legislative authority must prepare an 10 analysis of the locations within the jurisdiction where automated 11 traffic safety cameras are proposed to be located: (i) Before 12 enacting an ordinance allowing for the initial use of automated 13 traffic safety cameras; and (ii) before adding additional cameras or 14 relocating any existing camera to a new location within the jurisdiction. Automated traffic safety cameras may be used to detect 15 16 one or more of the following: Stoplight, railroad crossing, or school 17 speed zone violations; or speed violations subject to (c) of this 18 subsection. At a minimum, the local ordinance must contain the 19 restrictions described in this section and provisions for public 20 notice and signage. Cities and counties using automated traffic 21 safety cameras before July 24, 2005, are subject to the restrictions

1 described in this section, but are not required to enact an authorizing ordinance. Beginning one year after June 7, 2012, cities 2 and counties using automated traffic safety cameras must post an 3 annual report of the number of traffic accidents that occurred at 4 each location where an automated traffic safety camera is located as 5 6 well as the number of notices of infraction issued for each camera and any other relevant information about the automated traffic safety 7 cameras that the city or county deems appropriate on the city's or 8 county's web site. 9

10 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, use of 11 automated traffic safety cameras is restricted to the following 12 locations only: (i) Intersections of two arterials with traffic 13 control signals that have yellow change interval durations in 14 accordance with RCW 47.36.022, which interval durations may not be 15 reduced after placement of the camera; (ii) railroad crossings; and 16 (iii) school speed zones.

(c) Any city west of the Cascade mountains with a population of more than one hundred ninety-five thousand located in a county with a population of fewer than one million five hundred thousand may operate an automated traffic safety camera to detect speed violations subject to the following limitations:

(i) A city may only operate one such automated traffic safetycamera within its respective jurisdiction; and

(ii) The use and location of the automated traffic safety camera
 must have first been authorized by the Washington state legislature
 as a pilot project for at least one full year.

27 (d) Automated traffic safety cameras may only take pictures of 28 the vehicle and vehicle license plate and only while an infraction is occurring. The picture must not reveal the face of the driver or of 29 passengers in the vehicle. The primary purpose of camera placement is 30 31 to take pictures of the vehicle and vehicle license plate when an 32 infraction is occurring. Cities and counties shall consider 33 installing cameras in a manner that minimizes the impact of camera flash on drivers. 34

35 (e) A notice of infraction must be mailed to the registered owner 36 of the vehicle within fourteen days of the violation, or to the 37 renter of a vehicle within fourteen days of establishing the renter's 38 name and address under subsection (3)(a) of this section. The law 39 enforcement officer issuing the notice of infraction shall include 40 with it a certificate or facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of

1 photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images produced by an automated traffic safety camera, stating the facts supporting the 2 notice of infraction. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie 3 evidence of the facts contained in it and is admissible in a 4 proceeding charging a violation under this chapter. The photographs, 5 6 microphotographs, or electronic images evidencing the violation must available for inspection and admission into evidence in a 7 be proceeding to adjudicate the liability for the infraction. A person 8 receiving a notice of infraction based on evidence detected by an 9 10 automated traffic safety camera may respond to the notice by mail.

11 (f) The registered owner of a vehicle is responsible for an 12 infraction under RCW 46.63.030(1)(d) unless the registered owner 13 overcomes the presumption in RCW 46.63.075, or, in the case of a 14 rental car business, satisfies the conditions under subsection (3) of 15 this section. If appropriate under the circumstances, a renter 16 identified under subsection (3)(a) of this section is responsible for 17 an infraction.

(q) Notwithstanding any other provision of 18 law, ((all)) photographs, microphotographs, ((or)) <u>and</u> electronic images prepared 19 under this section ((are for the exclusive use of law enforcement in 20 the discharge of duties under this section and)) are not open to the 21 public ((and may not be used in a court in a pending action or 22 23 proceeding unless the action or proceeding relates to a violation under this section)). Photographs, microphotographs, and electronic 24 25 images prepared under this section may be used for the following purposes only: (i) The enforcement of civil infractions by law 26 27 enforcement as authorized under this section, including court 28 proceedings relating to the enforcement of those civil infractions; and (ii) the investigation and prosecution of crimes pursuant to a 29 lawfully issued search warrant. ((No)) 30 Any photograph, 31 microphotograph, or electronic image may <u>not</u> be used for any <u>other</u> 32 purpose ((other than enforcement of violations under this section nor)) and may not be used in court for any other pending action or 33 proceeding. Except when otherwise directed by a court order, no 34 photograph, microphotograph, or electronic image may be retained 35 longer than necessary to enforce this section. 36

(h) All locations where an automated traffic safety camera is used must be clearly marked at least thirty days prior to activation of the camera by placing signs in locations that clearly indicate to a driver that he or she is entering a zone where traffic laws are

SHB 1229

1 enforced by an automated traffic safety camera. Signs placed in 2 automated traffic safety camera locations after June 7, 2012, must 3 follow the specifications and guidelines under the manual of uniform 4 traffic control devices for streets and highways as adopted by the 5 department of transportation under chapter 47.36 RCW.

6 (i) If a county or city has established an authorized automated 7 traffic safety camera program under this section, the compensation 8 paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment used must be 9 based only upon the value of the equipment and services provided or 10 rendered in support of the system, and may not be based upon a 11 portion of the fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue generated 12 by the equipment.

(2) Infractions detected through the use of automated traffic 13 safety cameras are not part of the registered owner's driving record 14 under RCW 46.52.101 and 46.52.120. Additionally, 15 infractions 16 generated by the use of automated traffic safety cameras under this 17 section shall be processed in the same manner as parking infractions, 18 including for the purposes of RCW 3.50.100, 35.20.220, 46.16A.120, and 46.20.270(2). The amount of the fine issued for an infraction 19 generated through the use of an automated traffic safety camera shall 20 21 not exceed the amount of a fine issued for other parking infractions 22 within the jurisdiction. However, the amount of the fine issued for a traffic control signal violation detected through the use of an 23 automated traffic safety camera shall not exceed the monetary penalty 24 25 for a violation of RCW 46.61.050 as provided under RCW 46.63.110, 26 including all applicable statutory assessments.

(3) If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car business, the law enforcement agency shall, before a notice of infraction being issued under this section, provide a written notice to the rental car business that a notice of infraction may be issued to the rental car business if the rental car business does not, within eighteen days of receiving the written notice, provide to the issuing agency by return mail:

(a) A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing
 address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the
 infraction occurred; or

37 (b) A statement under oath that the business is unable to 38 determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the 39 infraction occurred because the vehicle was stolen at the time of the 40 infraction. A statement provided under this subsection must be

1 accompanied by a copy of a filed police report regarding the vehicle 2 theft; or

3 (c) In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, the rental car 4 business may pay the applicable penalty.

5 Timely mailing of this statement to the issuing law enforcement 6 agency relieves a rental car business of any liability under this 7 chapter for the notice of infraction.

8 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits a law enforcement officer 9 from issuing a notice of traffic infraction to a person in control of 10 a vehicle at the time a violation occurs under RCW 46.63.030(1) (a), 11 (b), or (c).

12 (5) For the purposes of this section, "automated traffic safety camera" means a device that uses a vehicle sensor installed to work 13 14 in conjunction with an intersection traffic control system, a railroad grade crossing control system, or a speed measuring device, 15 16 and a camera synchronized to automatically record one or more 17 sequenced photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of the 18 rear of a motor vehicle at the time the vehicle fails to stop when facing a steady red traffic control signal or an activated railroad 19 20 grade crossing control signal, or exceeds a speed limit as detected 21 by a speed measuring device.

(6) During the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennia, this section does not apply to automated traffic safety cameras for the purposes of section 216(5), chapter 367, Laws of 2011 and section 25 216(6), chapter 306, Laws of 2013.

26 Sec. 2. RCW 46.63.160 and 2015 c 292 s 1 are each amended to 27 read as follows:

(1) This section applies only to civil penalties for nonpaymentof tolls detected through use of photo toll systems.

30 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits a law enforcement officer 31 from issuing a notice of traffic infraction to a person in control of 32 a vehicle at the time a violation occurs under RCW 46.63.030(1) (a), 33 (b), or (c).

34 (3) A notice of civil penalty may be issued by the department of 35 transportation when a toll is assessed through use of a photo toll 36 system and the toll is not paid by the toll payment due date, which 37 is eighty days from the date the vehicle uses the toll facility and 38 incurs the toll charge.

1 (4) Any registered owner or renter of a vehicle traveling upon a 2 toll facility operated under chapter 47.56 or 47.46 RCW is subject to 3 a civil penalty governed by the administrative procedures set forth 4 in this section when the vehicle incurs a toll charge and the toll is 5 not paid by the toll payment due date, which is eighty days from the 6 date the vehicle uses the toll facility and incurs the toll charge.

(5) (a) The department shall develop rules to allow an individual 7 who has been issued a notice of civil penalty to present evidence of 8 mitigating circumstances as to why a toll bill was not timely paid. 9 If an individual is able to present verifiable evidence to the 10 11 department that a civil penalty was incurred due to hospitalization, 12 military deployment, eviction, homelessness, death of the alleged violator or of an alleged violator's immediate family member, failure 13 to receive the toll bill due to an incorrect address that has since 14 been corrected, a prepaid electronic toll account error that has 15 16 since been corrected, an error made by the department or an agent of 17 the department, or other mitigating circumstances as determined by 18 the department, the department may dismiss or reduce the civil 19 penalty and associated fees.

(b) (i) Consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW, the department of 20 transportation shall develop an administrative adjudication process 21 to review appeals of civil penalties issued by the department of 22 23 transportation for toll nonpayment detected through the use of a under this section. 24 photo toll system The department of 25 transportation shall submit to the transportation committees of the legislature an annual report on the number of times adjudicators 26 reduce or dismiss the civil penalty as provided in (b)(ii) of this 27 28 subsection and the total amount of the civil penalties dismissed. The report must be submitted by December 1st of each year. 29

(ii) During the adjudication process, the alleged violator must 30 31 have an opportunity to explain mitigating circumstances as to why the 32 toll bill was not timely paid. Hospitalization, a divorce decree or 33 legal separation agreement resulting in a transfer of the vehicle, an active duty member of the military or national guard covered by the 34 federal service members civil relief act, 50 U.S.C. Sec. 501 et seq., 35 or state service members' civil relief act, chapter 38.42 RCW, 36 eviction, homelessness, the death of the alleged violator or of an 37 immediate family member, being switched to a different method of toll 38 39 payment, if the alleged violator did not receive a toll charge bill or notice of civil penalty, or other mitigating circumstances as 40

1 determined by the adjudicator are deemed valid mitigating 2 circumstances. All of the reasons that constitute mitigating 3 circumstances must have occurred within a reasonable time of the 4 alleged toll violation. In response to these circumstances, the 5 adjudicator may reduce or dismiss the civil penalty and associated 6 administrative fees.

7 (6) The use of a photo toll system is subject to the following 8 requirements:

9 (a) Photo toll systems may take photographs, digital photographs, 10 microphotographs, videotapes, or other recorded images of the vehicle 11 and vehicle license plate only.

(b) A notice of civil penalty must include with it a certificate 12 or facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, 13 microphotographs, videotape, or other recorded images produced by a 14 photo toll system, stating the facts supporting the notice of civil 15 16 penalty. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie evidence of the 17 facts contained in it and is admissible in a proceeding established 18 under subsection (5) of this section. The photographs, digital photographs, microphotographs, videotape, or other recorded images 19 evidencing the toll nonpayment civil penalty must be available for 20 21 inspection and admission into evidence in a proceeding to adjudicate 22 the liability for the civil penalty.

(c) (i) By June 30, 2016, prior to issuing a notice of civil penalty to a registered owner of a vehicle listed on an active prepaid electronic toll account, the department of transportation must:

(A) Send an ((electronic mail)) email notice to the email address provided in the prepaid electronic toll account of unpaid pay-by-mail toll bills at least ten days prior to a notice of civil penalty being issued for the associated pay-by-mail toll. The notice must be separate from any regular notice sent by the department; and

32 (B) Call the phone numbers provided in the account to provide 33 notice of unpaid pay-by-mail toll bills at least ten days prior to a 34 notice of civil penalty being issued for the associated pay-by-mail 35 toll.

36 (ii) The department is relieved of its obligation to provide 37 notice as required by this section if the customer has declined to 38 receive communications from the department through such methods.

39 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ((all))
 40 photographs, digital photographs, microphotographs, videotape, other

1 recorded images, ((or)) and other records identifying a specific instance of travel prepared under this section are ((for the 2 exclusive use of the tolling agency for)) not open to the public. 3 Photographs, digital photographs, microphotographs, videotape, other 4 recorded images, and other records identifying a specific instance of 5 6 travel prepared under this section may be used for the following purposes only: (i) Toll collection and enforcement ((purposes and are 7 not open to the public and may not be used in a court in a pending 8 action or proceeding unless the action or proceeding relates to a 9 10 civil penalty under this section)) by the tolling agency, including court proceedings relating to a civil penalty under this section; and 11 (ii) the investigation and prosecution of crimes pursuant to a 12 <u>lawfully issued search warrant</u>. ((No)) <u>Any</u> photograph, digital 13 photograph, microphotograph, videotape, other recorded image, 14 or 15 other record identifying a specific instance of travel may not be 16 used for any <u>other</u> purpose ((other than toll collection or 17 enforcement of civil penalties under this section)) and may not be used in court for any other pending action or proceeding. Except when 18 otherwise directed by a court order, records identifying a specific 19 instance of travel by a specific person or vehicle must be retained 20 only as required to ensure payment and enforcement of tolls and to 21 comply with state records retention policies. 22

(e) All locations where a photo toll system is used must be clearly marked by placing signs in locations that clearly indicate to a driver that he or she is entering a zone where tolls are assessed and enforced by a photo toll system.

27 (f) Within existing resources, the department of transportation 28 shall conduct education and outreach efforts at least six months prior to activating an all-electronic photo toll system. Methods of 29 30 outreach shall include a department presence at community meetings in 31 the vicinity of a toll facility, signage, and information published 32 in local media. Information provided shall include notice of when all 33 electronic photo tolling shall begin and methods of payment. 34 Additionally, the department shall provide quarterly reporting on education and outreach efforts and other data related to the issuance 35 36 of civil penalties.

37 (g) The envelope containing a toll charge bill or related notice 38 issued pursuant to RCW 47.46.105 or 47.56.795, or a notice of civil 39 penalty issued under this section, must prominently indicate that the 40 contents are time sensitive and related to a toll violation.

1 (7) Civil penalties for toll nonpayment detected through the use 2 of photo toll systems must be issued to the registered owner of the 3 vehicle identified by the photo toll system, but are not part of the 4 registered owner's driving record under RCW 46.52.101 and 46.52.120.

5 (8) The civil penalty for toll nonpayment detected through the 6 use of a photo toll system is forty dollars plus the photo toll and 7 associated fees.

(9) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, all civil 8 penalties, including the photo toll and associated fees, collected 9 under this section must be deposited into the toll facility account 10 11 of the facility on which the toll was assessed. However, through June 30, 2013, civil penalties deposited into the Tacoma Narrows toll 12 bridge account created under RCW 47.56.165 that are in excess of 13 amounts necessary to support the toll adjudication process applicable 14 to toll collection on the Tacoma Narrows bridge must first be 15 16 allocated toward repayment of operating loans and reserve payments 17 provided to the account from the motor vehicle account under section 18 1005(15), chapter 518, Laws of 2007. Additionally, all civil penalties, resulting from nonpayment of tolls on the state route 19 20 number 520 corridor, shall be deposited into the state route number 21 520 civil penalties account created under section 4, chapter 248, Laws of 2010 but only if chapter 248, Laws of 2010 is enacted by June 22 23 30, 2010.

(10) If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car business, the department of transportation shall, before a toll bill is issued, provide a written notice to the rental car business that a toll bill may be issued to the rental car business if the rental car business does not, within thirty days of the mailing of the written notice, provide to the issuing agency by return mail:

30 (a) A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing 31 address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the 32 toll was assessed; or

33 (b) A statement under oath that the business is unable to 34 determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the toll 35 was assessed because the vehicle was stolen at the time the toll was 36 assessed. A statement provided under this subsection must be 37 accompanied by a copy of a filed police report regarding the vehicle 38 theft; or

39 (c) In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, the rental car40 business may pay the applicable toll and fee.

1 Timely mailing of this statement to the issuing agency relieves a 2 rental car business of any liability under this section for the 3 payment of the toll.

(11) It is the intent of the legislature that the department 4 provide an educational opportunity when vehicle owners incur fees and 5 6 penalties associated with late payment of tolls for the first time. 7 As part of this educational opportunity, the department may waive penalties and fees if the issue that resulted in the toll not being 8 timely paid has been resolved and the vehicle owner establishes an 9 electronic toll account, if practicable. To aid in collecting tolls 10 11 in a timely manner, the department may waive or reduce the 12 outstanding amounts of fees and penalties assessed when tolls are not 13 timely paid.

(12) (a) By June 30, 2016, the department of transportation must update its web site, and accommodate access to the web site from mobile platforms, to allow toll customers to efficiently manage all their tolling accounts, regardless of method of payment.

(b) (i) By June 30, 2016, the department of transportation must make available to the public a point of access that allows a third party to develop an application for mobile technologies that (A) securely accesses a user's toll account information and (B) allows the user to manage his or her toll account to the same extent possible through the department's web site.

(ii) If the department determines that it would be cost-effective and in the best interests of the citizens of Washington, it may also develop an application for mobile technologies that allows toll customers to manage all of their tolling accounts from a mobile platform.

(13) When acquiring a new photo toll system, the department of transportation must enable the new system to:

31 (a) Connect with the department of licensing's vehicle record 32 system so that a prepaid electronic toll account can be updated 33 automatically when a toll customer's vehicle record is updated, if 34 the customer has consented to such updates; and

35 (b) Document when any toll is assessed for a vehicle listed in a 36 prepaid electronic toll account in the monthly statement that is made 37 available to the electronic toll account holder regardless of whether 38 the method of payment for the toll is via pay-by-mail or prepaid 39 electronic toll account.

1 (14) Consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW, the department of 2 transportation shall develop rules to implement this section.

3 (15) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Photo toll system" means the system defined in RCW 47.56.010 5 and 47.46.020.

6 (b) "Prepaid electronic toll account" means a prepaid toll 7 account linked to a pass or license plate number, including "Good to 8 Go!".

9 (16) If a customer's toll charge or civil penalty is waived 10 pursuant to this section due to an error made by the department, or 11 an agent of the department, in reading the customer's license plate, 12 the secretary of transportation must send a letter to the customer 13 apologizing for the error.

14 Sec. 3. RCW 47.56.795 and 2015 c 292 s 2 are each amended to 15 read as follows:

(1) A toll collection system may include, but is not limited to,electronic toll collection and photo tolling.

(2) (a) A photo toll system may take photographs, digital
photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, or other recorded images
of the vehicle and vehicle license plate only.

21 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, ((all)) 22 photographs, digital photographs, microphotographs, videotape, other recorded images, ((or)) <u>and</u> other records identifying a specific 23 24 instance of travel prepared under this chapter are ((for the 25 exclusive use of the tolling agency for)) not open to the public. Photographs, digital photographs, microphotographs, videotape, other 26 27 recorded images, and other records identifying a specific instance of travel prepared under this chapter may be used for the following 28 purposes only: (i) Toll collection and enforcement ((purposes and are 29 30 not open to the public and may not be used in a court in a pending 31 action or proceeding unless the action or proceeding relates)) by the tolling agency, including court proceedings relating to a civil 32 penalty under RCW 46.63.160; and (ii) the investigation and 33 prosecution of crimes pursuant to a lawfully issued search warrant. 34 35 ((NO)) Any photograph, digital photograph, microphotograph, videotape, other recorded image, or other record identifying a 36 specific instance of travel may not be used for any other purpose 37 38 ((other than toll collection or enforcement of civil penalties under RCW 46.63.160)) and may not be used in court for any other pending 39

SHB 1229

1 action or proceeding. Except when otherwise directed by a court 2 order, records identifying a specific instance of travel by a 3 specific person or vehicle must be retained only as required to 4 ensure payment and enforcement of tolls and to comply with state 5 records retention policies. Aggregate records that do not identify an 6 individual, vehicle, or account may be maintained.

7 (3) The department and its agents shall only use electronic toll8 collection system technology for toll collection purposes.

9

(4) Tolls may be collected and paid by the following methods:

10 (a) A customer may pay an electronic toll through an electronic11 toll collection account;

12 (b) A customer may pay a photo toll either through a customer-13 initiated payment or in response to a toll bill; or

14 (c) A customer may pay with cash on toll facilities that have a 15 manual cash collection system.

16 (5) To the extent practicable, the department shall adopt 17 electronic toll collection options, which allow for anonymous 18 customer accounts and anonymous accounts that are not linked to a 19 specific vehicle.

(6) The transportation commission shall adopt rules, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, to assess administrative fees as appropriate for toll collection processes. Administrative fees must not exceed toll collection costs. All administrative fees collected under this section must be deposited into the toll facility account of the facility on which the toll was assessed.

(7) Failure to pay a photo toll by the toll payment due date is a
violation for which a notice of civil penalty may be issued under RCW
46.63.160.

(8) For an electronic toll collection system that uses an invehicle device, such as a transponder, to identify a particular customer for the purposes of paying an electronic toll from that customer's toll collection account, the department must allow such in-vehicle devices to be offered for sale at vehicle dealers.

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