

HB 234 -- AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

SPONSOR: Spencer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 10 to 2.

Beginning August 28, 2015, this bill prohibits any county, city, town, village, municipality, state agency, or other political subdivision of this state from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any law, ordinance, regulation, order, or other provision that authorizes the use of an automated traffic system, including automatic number plate recognition systems, to establish evidence that a motor vehicle or its operator is not in compliance with traffic signals, speeds, or other traffic laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations on any public street, road, or highway in the state or imposing or collecting any civil or criminal fine, fee, or penalty for any noncompliance.

Any county, city, town, village, municipality, state agency, or other political subdivision that currently has an automated traffic enforcement system installation or maintenance contract with a company or entity on August 28, 2015, must complete or terminate the contract by September 1, 2016.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that these types of enforcement systems cause more accidents than they prevent. Additionally, they do not allow for proper due process of law because they are unable to properly identify the motorist who is ultimately charged.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Spencer; Jeremy Cadell; Missouri Alliance For Freedom; Matthew Hay; ACLU of Missouri; Tony Shepherd; and Trent Watson.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that these types of enforcement systems increase public safety. Moreover, local governments do have the right to operate these systems.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Municipal League and Missouri Police Chiefs Association.