CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5540

Chapter 375, Laws of 2011

62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

SCHOOL BUSES--SAFETY CAMERAS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/22/11

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2011 YEAS 45 NAYS 1

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 5, 2011 YEAS 93 NAYS 3

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved May 16, 2011, 3:44 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5540** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

FILED

May 17, 2011

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5540

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2011 Regular Session

State of Washington 62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Hobbs, Delvin, King, and Hewitt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/11.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to automated school bus safety cameras; amending
- 2 RCW 46.61.370, 46.63.030, 46.63.030, 46.63.075, 46.63.075, 46.16A.120,
- 3 and 46.16A.120; adding a new section to chapter 46.63 RCW; creating a
- 4 new section; prescribing penalties; and providing a contingent
- 5 effective date.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 7 <u>NEW_SECTION.</u> **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the safe
- 8 transportation of children to and from school is a shared
- 9 responsibility of the school district and the driving public. In order
- 10 to increase public awareness of their responsibility, it is the intent
- 11 of the legislature that the state superintendent of public instruction
- 12 coordinate with school districts and any other relevant agencies who
- 13 voluntarily choose to participate in a national stop arm violation day
- 14 annually between March 1st and May 15th.
- 15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 46.63 RCW
- 16 to read as follows:
- 17 (1) School districts may install and operate automated school bus
- 18 safety cameras on school buses to be used for the detection of

- violations of RCW 46.61.370(1) if the use of the cameras is approved by a vote of the school district board of directors. School districts are not required to take school buses out of service if the buses are not equipped with automated school bus safety cameras or functional automated safety cameras. Further, school districts shall be held harmless from and not liable for any criminal or civil liability arising under the provisions of this section.
 - (a) Automated school bus safety cameras may only take pictures of 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 passengers in the vehicle.
- (b) A notice of infraction must be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle within fourteen days of the violation, or to the renter of a vehicle within fourteen days of establishing the renter's name and address under subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section. enforcement officer issuing the notice of infraction shall include a certificate or facsimile of the notice, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images produced by an automated school bus safety camera, stating the facts supporting the notice of infraction. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie evidence of the facts contained in it and is admissible in a proceeding charging a violation under this chapter. The photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images evidencing the violation must be available for inspection and admission into evidence in a proceeding to adjudicate the liability for the infraction. A person receiving a notice of infraction based on evidence detected by an automated school bus safety camera may respond to the notice by mail.
- (c) The registered owner of a vehicle is responsible for an infraction under RCW 46.63.030(1)(e) unless the registered owner overcomes the presumption in RCW 46.63.075, or, in the case of a rental car business, satisfies the conditions under subsection (2) of this section. If appropriate under the circumstances, a renter identified under subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section is responsible for an infraction.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images prepared under this section are for the exclusive use of law enforcement in the discharge of duties under this section and are not open to the public and may not be used

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in a court in a pending action or proceeding unless the action or proceeding relates to a violation under this section. No photograph, microphotograph, or electronic image may be used for any purpose other than enforcement of violations under this section nor retained longer than necessary to enforce this section.

- (e) If a school district installs and operates an automated school bus safety camera under this section, the compensation paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment used must be based only upon the value of the equipment and services provided or rendered in support of the system, and may not be based upon a portion of the fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue generated by the equipment. Further, any repair, replacement, or administrative work costs related to installing or repairing automated school bus safety cameras must be solely paid for by the manufacturer or vender of the cameras. Before entering into a contract with the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment used under this subsection (1)(e), the school district must follow the competitive bid process as outlined in RCW 28A.335.190(1).
- (f) Any revenue collected from infractions detected through the use of automated school bus safety cameras, less the administration and operating costs of the cameras, must be remitted to school districts for school zone safety projects as determined by the school district using the automated school bus safety cameras. The administration and operating costs of the cameras includes infraction enforcement and processing costs that are incurred by local law enforcement or local courts.
- (2)(a) If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car business, the law enforcement agency shall, before a notice of infraction is 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:
- (i) A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the infraction occurred;
- (ii) A statement under oath that the business is unable to determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the infraction occurred because the vehicle was stolen at the time of the

- infraction. A statement provided under this subsection (2)(a)(ii) must be accompanied by a copy of a filed police report regarding the vehicle theft; or
 - (iii) In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, the rental car business may pay the applicable penalty.
 - (b) Timely mailing of a statement under this subsection to the issuing law enforcement agency relieves a rental car business of any liability under this chapter for the notice of infraction.
 - (3) For purposes of this section, "automated school bus safety camera" means a device that is affixed to a school bus that is synchronized to automatically record one or more sequenced photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of the rear of a vehicle at the time the vehicle is detected for an infraction identified in RCW 46.61.370(1).
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.370 and 1997 c 80 s 1 are each amended to read 16 as follows:
 - (1) The driver of a vehicle upon overtaking or meeting from either direction any school bus which has stopped on the roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school children shall stop the vehicle before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on said school bus a visual signal as specified in RCW 46.37.190 and said driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or the visual signals are no longer activated.
 - (2) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway divided into separate roadways as provided in RCW 46.61.150 need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.
 - (3) The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with three or more marked traffic lanes need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is proceeding in the opposite direction and is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.
 - (4) The driver of a school bus shall actuate the visual signals required by RCW 46.37.190 only when such bus is stopped on the roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children.
- 35 (5) The driver of a school bus may stop completely off the roadway 36 for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children only when

the school children do not have to cross the roadway. The school bus driver shall actuate the hazard warning lamps as defined in RCW 46.37.215 before loading or unloading school children at such stops.

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- (6) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, a person found to have committed an infraction of subsection (1) of this section shall be assessed a monetary penalty equal to twice the total penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110. This penalty may not be waived, reduced, or suspended. Fifty percent of the money so collected shall be deposited into the school zone safety account in the custody of the state treasurer and disbursed in accordance with RCW 46.61.440(((3))) (5).
- 12 (7) An infraction of subsection (1) of this section detected 13 through the use of an automated school bus safety camera under section 14 2 of this act is not a part of the registered owner's driving record under RCW 46.52.101 and 46.52.120, and must be processed in the same 15 manner as parking infractions, including for the purposes of RCW 16 3.50.100, 35.20.220, 46.16A.120, and 46.20.270(3). However, the amount 17 of the fine issued for a violation of this section detected through the 18 use of an automated school bus safety camera shall not exceed twice the 19 monetary penalty for a violation of this section as provided under RCW 20 21 46.63.110.
- 22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.63.030 and 2007 c 101 s 1 are each amended to read 23 as follows:
 - (1) A law enforcement officer has the authority to issue a notice of traffic infraction:
 - (a) When the infraction is committed in the officer's presence;
- 27 (b) When the officer is acting upon the request of a law 28 enforcement officer in whose presence the traffic infraction was 29 committed;
 - (c) If an officer investigating at the scene of a motor vehicle accident has reasonable cause to believe that the driver of a motor vehicle involved in the accident has committed a traffic infraction;
 - (d) When the infraction is detected through the use of a photo enforcement system under RCW 46.63.160; ($(\frac{6}{10})$)
- 35 (e) When the infraction is detected through the use of an automated 36 school bus safety camera under section 2 of this act; or

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- 1 (f) When the infraction is detected through the use of an automated 2 traffic safety camera under RCW 46.63.170.
 - (2) A court may issue a notice of traffic infraction upon receipt of a written statement of the officer that there is reasonable cause to believe that an infraction was committed.
 - (3) If any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked, standing, or stopped in violation of this title or an equivalent administrative regulation or local law, ordinance, regulation, or resolution, the officer finding the vehicle shall take its registration number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to the vehicle a notice of traffic infraction.
- 13 (4) In the case of failure to redeem an abandoned vehicle under RCW 46.55.120, upon receiving a complaint by a registered tow truck 14 operator that has incurred costs in removing, storing, and disposing of 15 an abandoned vehicle, an officer of the law enforcement agency 16 17 responsible for directing the removal of the vehicle shall send a notice of infraction by certified mail to the last known address of the 18 person responsible under RCW 46.55.105. The notice must be entitled 19 "Littering--Abandoned Vehicle" and give notice of the monetary penalty. 20 The officer shall append to the notice of infraction, on a form 21 22 prescribed by the department of licensing, a notice indicating the amount of costs incurred as a result of removing, storing, and 23 24 disposing of the abandoned vehicle, less any amount realized at 25 auction, and a statement that monetary penalties for the infraction will not be considered as having been paid until the monetary penalty 26 27 payable under this chapter has been paid and the court is satisfied that the person has made restitution in the amount of the deficiency 28 remaining after disposal of the vehicle. 29
- 30 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.63.030 and 2010 c 249 s 5 are each amended to read 31 as follows:
- 32 (1) A law enforcement officer has the authority to issue a notice 33 of traffic infraction:
 - (a) When the infraction is committed in the officer's presence;
- 35 (b) When the officer is acting upon the request of a law 36 enforcement officer in whose presence the traffic infraction was 37 committed;

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- 1 (c) If an officer investigating at the scene of a motor vehicle 2 accident has reasonable cause to believe that the driver of a motor 3 vehicle involved in the accident has committed a traffic infraction; 4 ((or))
 - (d) When the infraction is detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera under RCW 46.63.170; or

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- (e) When the infraction is detected through the use of an automated school bus safety camera under section 2 of this act.
- (2) A court may issue a notice of traffic infraction upon receipt of a written statement of the officer that there is reasonable cause to believe that an infraction was committed.
- (3) If any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked, standing, or stopped in violation of this title or an equivalent administrative regulation or local law, ordinance, regulation, or resolution, the officer finding the vehicle shall take its registration number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to the vehicle a notice of traffic infraction.
- (4) In the case of failure to redeem an abandoned vehicle under RCW 46.55.120, upon receiving a complaint by a registered tow truck operator that has incurred costs in removing, storing, and disposing of an abandoned vehicle, an officer of the law enforcement agency responsible for directing the removal of the vehicle shall send a notice of infraction by certified mail to the last known address of the person responsible under RCW 46.55.105. The notice must be entitled "Littering--Abandoned Vehicle" and give notice of the monetary penalty. The officer shall append to the notice of infraction, on a form prescribed by the department of licensing, a notice indicating the amount of costs incurred as a result of removing, storing, and disposing of the abandoned vehicle, less any amount realized at auction, and a statement that monetary penalties for the infraction will not be considered as having been paid until the monetary penalty payable under this chapter has been paid and the court is satisfied that the person has made restitution in the amount of the deficiency remaining after disposal of the vehicle.
- 36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.63.075 and 2005 c 167 s 3 are each amended to read 37 as follows:

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- (1) In a traffic infraction case involving an infraction detected through the use of a photo enforcement system under RCW 46.63.160, ((er)) detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera under RCW 46.63.170, or detected through the use of an automated school bus safety camera under section 2 of this act, proof that the particular vehicle described in the notice of traffic infraction was in violation of any such provision of RCW 46.63.160 or 46.63.170, together with proof that the person named in the notice of traffic infraction was at the time of the violation the registered owner of the vehicle, constitutes in evidence a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the person in control of the vehicle at the point where, and for the time during which, the violation occurred.
 - (2) This presumption may be overcome only if the registered owner states, under oath, in a written statement to the court or in testimony before the court that the vehicle involved was, at the time, stolen or in the care, custody, or control of some person other than the registered owner.
- Sec. 7. RCW 46.63.075 and 2010 c 249 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) In a traffic infraction case involving an infraction detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera under RCW 46.63.170 or detected through the use of an automated school bus safety camera under section 2 of this act, proof that the particular vehicle described in the notice of traffic infraction was in violation of any such provision of RCW 46.63.170, together with proof that the person named in the notice of traffic infraction was at the time of the violation the registered owner of the vehicle, constitutes in evidence a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the person in control of the vehicle at the point where, and for the time during which, the violation occurred.
 - (2) This presumption may be overcome only if the registered owner states, under oath, in a written statement to the court or in testimony before the court that the vehicle involved was, at the time, stolen or in the care, custody, or control of some person other than the registered owner.

- **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.16A.120 and 2010 c 161 s 430 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Each court and government agency located in this state having jurisdiction over standing, stopping, and parking violations, the use of a photo enforcement system under RCW 46.63.160, ((and)) the use of automated traffic safety cameras under RCW 46.63.170, and the use of automated school bus safety cameras under section 2 of this act may forward to the department any outstanding:
 - (a) Standing, stopping, and parking violations;
- 10 (b) Photo enforcement infractions issued under RCW 46.63.030(1)(d);
 11 ((and))
- 12 (c) Automated traffic safety camera infractions issued under RCW 46.63.030(1)($\frac{(e)}{1}$) $\frac{(f)}{1}$; and
- 14 (d) Automated school bus safety camera infractions issued under RCW 15 46.63.030(1)(e).
 - (2) Violations and infractions described in subsection (1) of this section must be reported to the department in the manner described in RCW 46.20.270(3).
 - (3) The department shall:

- 20 (a) Record the violations and infractions on the matching vehicle records; and
 - (b) Send notice approximately one hundred twenty days in advance of the current vehicle registration expiration date to the registered owner listing the dates and jurisdictions in which the violations occurred, the amounts of unpaid fines and penalties, and the surcharge to be collected. Only those violations and infractions received by the department one hundred twenty days or more before the current vehicle registration expiration date will be included in the notice. Violations and infractions received by the department later than one hundred twenty days before the current vehicle registration expiration date that are not satisfied will be delayed until the next vehicle registration expiration date.
 - (4) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director shall not renew a vehicle registration if there are any outstanding standing, stopping, and parking violations, and other infractions issued under RCW 46.63.030(1)(d) for the vehicle unless:

- 1 (a) The outstanding((¬)) standing, (([stopping,])) <u>stopping</u>, or 2 parking violations were received by the department within one hundred 3 twenty days before the current vehicle registration expiration;
 - (b) There is a change in registered ownership; or
 - (c) The registered owner presents proof of payment of each violation and infraction provided in this section and the registered owner pays the surcharge required under RCW 46.17.030.
 - (5) The department shall:

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- 9 (a) Forward a change in registered ownership information to the 10 court or government agency who reported the outstanding violations or 11 infractions; and
- 12 (b) Remove the outstanding violations and infractions from the 13 vehicle record.
- 14 **Sec. 9.** RCW 46.16A.120 and 2010 c 249 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (((1) To renew a vehicle license, an applicant shall satisfy all listed standing, stopping, and parking violations, and civil penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160 for the vehicle incurred while the vehicle was registered in the applicant's name and forwarded to the department pursuant-to-RCW-46.20.270(3). For-the-purposes-of-this-section, "listed" - standing, - stopping, - and - parking - violations, - and - civil penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160 include only those violations for which notice has been received from state or local agencies or courts by the department one hundred twenty days or more before the date the vehicle-license-expires-and-that-are-placed-on-the-records-of-the department. Notice of such violations received by the department later than one hundred twenty days before that date that are not satisfied shall - be - considered - by - the - department - in - connection - with - any applications for license renewal in any subsequent license year. The renewal application may be processed by the department or its agents only if the applicant:
- 32 (a)—Presents—a—preprinted—renewal—application—showing—no—listed 33 standing, stopping, or parking violations, or civil penalties—issued 34 under RCW 46.63.160, or in the absence of such presentation, the agent 35 verifies—the—information—that—would—be—contained—on—the—preprinted 36 renewal application; or

- (b) If listed standing, stopping, or parking violations, or civil
 penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160 exist, presents proof of payment
 and pays a fifteen dollar surcharge.
 - (2) The surcharge shall be allocated as follows:

- (a) Ten dollars shall be deposited in the motor vehicle fund to be used-exclusively-for-the-administrative-costs-of-the-department-of licensing; and
- (b)-Five-dollars-shall-be-retained-by-the-agent-handling-the renewal application to be used by the agent for the administration of this section.
- (3) If there is a change in the registered owner of the vehicle, the department shall forward the information regarding the change to the state or local charging jurisdiction and release any hold on the renewal of the vehicle license resulting from parking violations or civil penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160 incurred while the certificate of license registration was in a previous registered owner's name.
- (4) The department shall send to all registered owners of vehicles who have been reported to have outstanding listed parking violations or civil penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160, at the time of renewal, a statement—setting—out—the—dates—and—jurisdictions—in—which—the violations—occurred—as—well—as—the—amounts—of—unpaid—fines—and penalties relating to them and the surcharge to be collected.))
- (1) Each court and government agency located in this state having jurisdiction over standing, stopping, and parking violations, the use of a photo toll system under RCW 46.63.160, the use of automated traffic safety cameras under RCW 46.63.170, and the use of automated school bus safety cameras under section 2 of this act may forward to the department any outstanding:
 - (a) Standing, stopping, and parking violations;
- 31 (b) Civil penalties for toll nonpayment detected through the use of 32 photo toll systems issued under RCW 46.63.160;
- 33 (c) Automated traffic safety camera infractions issued under RCW 46.63.030(1)(d); and
- 35 (d) Automated school bus safety camera infractions issued under RCW 46.63.160(1)(e).
- 37 (2) Violations, civil penalties, and infractions described in

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- subsection (1) of this section must be reported to the department in the manner described in RCW 46.20.270(3).
 - (3) The department shall:

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- (a) Record the violations, civil penalties, and infractions on the matching vehicle records; and
- (b) Send notice approximately one hundred twenty days in advance of 6 7 the current vehicle registration expiration date to the registered owner listing the dates and jurisdictions in which the violations, 8 civil penalties, and infractions occurred, the amounts of unpaid fines 9 and penalties, and the surcharge to be collected. Only those 10 violations, civil penalties, and infractions received by the department 11 12 one hundred twenty days or more before the current vehicle registration 13 expiration date will be included in the notice. Violations, civil penalties, and infractions received by the department later than one 14 hundred twenty days before the current vehicle registration expiration 15 date that are not satisfied will be delayed until the next vehicle 16 17 registration expiration date.
- 18 (4) The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent
 19 appointed by the director shall not renew a vehicle registration if
 20 there are any outstanding standing, stopping, and parking violations,
 21 and other civil penalties issued under RCW 46.63.160 for the vehicle
 22 unless:
- 23 <u>(a) The outstanding standing, stopping, or parking violations and</u>
 24 <u>civil penalties were received by the department within one hundred</u>
 25 twenty days before the current vehicle registration expiration;
 - (b) There is a change in registered ownership; or
- 27 <u>(c) The registered owner presents proof of payment of each</u>
 28 <u>violation, civil penalty, and infraction provided in this section and</u>
 29 the registered owner pays the surcharge required under RCW 46.17.030.
 - (5) The department shall:
- 31 <u>(a) Forward a change in registered ownership information to the</u> 32 <u>court or government agency who reported the outstanding violations,</u>
- 33 civil penalties, or infractions; and
- 34 <u>(b) Remove the outstanding violations, civil penalties, and</u> 35 infractions from the vehicle record.
- 36 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** Sections 5, 7, and 9 of this act take 37 effect upon certification by the secretary of transportation that the

- 1 new statewide tolling operations center and photo toll system are fully
- 2 operational. A notice of certification must be filed with the code
- 3 reviser for publication in the state register. If a certificate is not
- 4 issued by the secretary of transportation by December 1, 2012, sections
- 5 5, 7, and 9 of this act are null and void.

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2011. Passed by the House April 5, 2011. Approved by the Governor May 16, 2011. Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 17, 2011.