

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6002**

Chapter 239, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature  
2026 Regular Session

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 30, 2026

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2026  
Yeas 39 Nays 10

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 5, 2026  
Yeas 84 Nays 10

LURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved March 30, 2026 1:39 PM

BOB FERGUSON

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6002** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

March 31, 2026

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6002**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Trudeau, Holy, Alvarado, Bateman, Chapman, Conway, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Kauffman, Lovelett, Nobles, Pedersen, Shewmake, Slatter, Stanford, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to driver privacy protections and automated  
2 license plate reader systems; adding a new chapter to Title 10 RCW;  
3 prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature finds that it  
6 plays an important role balancing the need to ensure public safety  
7 and an individual's right to privacy under both the federal Fourth  
8 Amendment to the United States Constitution and the broader  
9 protection of individual rights guaranteed by Article I, section 7 of  
10 the Washington state Constitution.

11 The legislature further finds that the dramatic expansion of  
12 surveillance technology across the country has demonstrated the need  
13 to establish sensible guardrails on the use of surveillance data  
14 collected from monitoring the location and travel of individuals,  
15 without a warrant, to ensure its use by law enforcement and other  
16 government agencies must not come into conflict with existing  
17 protections for Washingtonians and ensure that it is not being used  
18 for purposes prohibited under state and federal law.

1        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 2.**        DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this  
2 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly  
3 requires otherwise.

4        (1) "Agency" includes all state agencies and all local agencies.

5        (2) "Audit trail data" means all forms of data collected or  
6 generated by an automated license plate reader system that identify  
7 how the system is accessed or used. "Audit trail data" includes  
8 information about who accesses or uses the system, and how and when  
9 the system is accessed or used. "Audit trail data" does not include  
10 automated license plate reader data.

11        (3) "Automated license plate reader data" means all data  
12 collected by automated license plate reader systems including, but  
13 not limited to, global positioning system coordinates, location, date  
14 and time, speed of travel, photograph, license plate number,  
15 automobile characteristics, or other identifying information.  
16 "Automated license plate reader data" does not include audio or video  
17 recordings generated by a dashboard or body worn camera, unless such  
18 recordings are converted into computer-readable license plate  
19 characters or associated metadata, or are indexed, made searchable,  
20 or analyzed by license plate number, individual, vehicle, biometric  
21 identifier, or other unique identifier for the purpose of  
22 identifying, tracking, or reconstructing an individual's or vehicle's  
23 location.

24        (4) "Automated license plate reader system" means a system,  
25 software, or computer algorithm, whether used independently or in  
26 combination with one or more mobile or fixed automated cameras, that  
27 is used to convert images of license plates into computer-readable  
28 data. An automated license plate reader system excludes automated  
29 school bus safety cameras, speed safety camera systems, and automated  
30 traffic safety camera systems, as defined in RCW 46.63.210, that do  
31 not interface or interact with an automated license plate reader  
32 system for purposes other than those authorized under RCW 46.63.180,  
33 46.63.200, or 46.63.220 through 46.63.260. An automated license plate  
34 reader system excludes photo toll system cameras authorized under RCW  
35 47.56.795 or 47.46.105.

36        (5) "Court order," "warrant," or "subpoena" means a court order  
37 as defined in RCW 43.17.420.

38        (6) "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in RCW  
39 10.116.010.

1 (7) "Local agency" includes every county, city, town, municipal  
2 corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, special purpose district,  
3 local housing authorities, or any office, department, division,  
4 bureau, board, commission, or agency thereof, or other local public  
5 agency including their respective employees and agents.

6 (8) "State agency" includes every state office, department,  
7 division, bureau, board, commission, or other state agency, and their  
8 respective employees and agents.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** OPERATION. (1) Except as provided for in  
10 this section, it is unlawful for any agency to access, operate, or  
11 use an automated license plate reader system or its associated  
12 automated license plate reader data.

13 (2) An agency may access, operate, or use an automated license  
14 plate reader system and its associated data only for the following  
15 authorized purposes:

16 (a) Any law enforcement agency may use an automated license plate  
17 reader system for the purpose of comparing captured automated license  
18 plate reader data with:

19 (i) Data in any of the following databases maintained by either a  
20 federal or Washington state agency: The department of licensing, the  
21 state criminal justice information system, the federal bureau of  
22 investigation kidnappings and missing persons list, the national  
23 center for missing and exploited children list, and the Washington  
24 missing persons list; or

25 (ii) License plate numbers or vehicle characteristics that have  
26 been entered into a state or local automated license plate reader  
27 system database or entered in order to perform a search, upon an  
28 officer's determination that the license plate numbers or vehicle  
29 characteristics are relevant and material to an investigation of a  
30 vehicle that is:

31 (A) Stolen;

32 (B) Associated with a missing or endangered person;

33 (C) Registered to an individual for whom there is an outstanding  
34 felony or gross misdemeanor warrant; or

35 (D) Related to or involved in a felony or gross misdemeanor.

36 (b) Any parking enforcement agency, or their agent, including,  
37 but not limited to, cities, counties, the department of enterprise  
38 services, and institutions of higher education as defined in RCW

1 28B.10.016 may use an automated license plate reader system for the  
2 following purposes:

3 (i) Enforcing restrictions on the use of parking spaces; or

4 (ii) Identifying vehicles in a database for impoundment or  
5 immobilization under a local ordinance enacted under RCW 46.55.240,  
6 provided the database includes only license plates of vehicles  
7 subject to that ordinance.

8 (c) Any transportation agency may use an automated license plate  
9 reader system for the following purposes:

10 (i) Providing real-time traffic information to the public,  
11 traffic modeling, and traffic studies such as determining  
12 construction delays and route use; and

13 (ii) Enforcing commercial vehicle systems at Washington state  
14 patrol enforcement sites and weigh stations.

15 (d) State and local agencies operating automated license plate  
16 reader systems are the legal owners of the associated automated  
17 license plate reader data collected by the system the agency  
18 operates.

19 (3) It is unlawful for any agency, as described in RCW 43.17.425,  
20 to use an automated license plate reader system for immigration  
21 investigation or enforcement, or both, in accordance with RCW  
22 10.93.160, or for any protected health care services under chapter  
23 7.115 RCW, or to track or otherwise monitor activity protected by the  
24 Washington state Constitution and the first amendment to the United  
25 States Constitution.

26 (4) (a) It is unlawful for any agency to collect automated license  
27 plate reader data on the premises or immediate surroundings or access  
28 to or from facilities that provide protected health care, as  
29 described in chapter 7.115 RCW, or at facilities conducting an  
30 immigration matter as defined in RCW 19.154.020, elementary and  
31 secondary schools, places of worship, courts, or food banks.

32 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "facilities" includes  
33 only the building or buildings used for the purposes described in (a)  
34 of this subsection and any immediately adjacent parking lots that are  
35 primarily or exclusively used for the purposes described in (a) of  
36 this subsection.

37 (5) Any agency that intends to use, or currently uses an  
38 automated license plate reader system as of the effective date of  
39 this section and intends to continue using the system, shall register  
40 it with the office of the attorney general on forms approved by the

1 office for that purpose within 180 days of the effective date of this  
2 section. The head of the agency shall certify that the system meets  
3 all the requirements of this chapter, and that the agency has a  
4 policy or policies in effect governing its use and a documented  
5 training process for the officers that will use it. Agencies may not  
6 use automated license plate reader systems that have not been  
7 properly registered under this section.

8 (6) A positive match by an automated license plate reader system  
9 alone does not constitute reasonable suspicion as grounds for a state  
10 or local law enforcement officer to stop the vehicle. The officer  
11 shall develop independent reasonable suspicion for the stop or  
12 immediately confirm visually that the license plate on the vehicle  
13 matches the image of the license plate displayed on the automated  
14 license plate reader system and confirm by other means that the  
15 license plate number is in one of the databases specified in  
16 subsection (2) (a) of this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RETENTION. Automated license plate reader  
18 data collected by or on behalf of an agency, as authorized pursuant  
19 to section 3(2) of this act, shall not be used or shared for any  
20 other purpose and shall not be retained longer than 21 days, with the  
21 following exceptions:

22 (1) When retained pursuant to a valid, court-issued, probable  
23 cause felony or gross misdemeanor warrant or subpoena, or as  
24 permitted by court order in criminal or civil cases, provided the  
25 data is deleted at the conclusion of the criminal or civil case,  
26 pursuant to the applicable record retention schedule. Automated  
27 license plate reader data may be shared in discovery in accordance  
28 with applicable court rules;

29 (2) When retained for the purpose of parking enforcement,  
30 provided the data is deleted no later than 12 hours after final  
31 disposition of a parking enforcement case, including exhaustion of  
32 any applicable appeals process;

33 (3) When retained for the purpose of traffic studies, provided  
34 the data is deleted no later than 30 days after collection;

35 (4) When retained for the purpose of enforcing commercial vehicle  
36 systems, provided the data is deleted no later than six months after  
37 collection; and

38 (5) When retained for the purpose in section 3(2) (a) of this act  
39 for as long as such captured automated license plate reader data is

1 needed as evidence of specific unlawful conduct enumerated in section  
2 3(2) (a) of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PROHIBITED PRACTICES. (1) An agency that  
4 uses an automated license plate reader system pursuant to section  
5 3(2) of this act shall not:

6 (a) Disclose, share, or permit access to automated license plate  
7 reader data except as required in a judicial proceeding;

8 (b) Provide any other entity with direct access to the automated  
9 license plate reader system, except with other state or local  
10 agencies authorized to collect automated license plate reader data  
11 under section 3 of this act. A third-party vendor providing automated  
12 license plate reader system services may access an automated license  
13 plate reader system solely to the extent necessary to fulfill a  
14 specific agency-authorized purpose.

15 (2) Any agency that uses a database pursuant to section 3(2) (a)  
16 and (b)(ii) of this act shall use the most recent and updated version  
17 of the database that is available to the agency and shall check for  
18 and apply any available updates no less than once every 24 hours.

19 (3) An agency shall not sell, lease, rent, or purchase automated  
20 license plate reader data or audit trail data.

21 (4) An agency may obtain privately held automated license plate  
22 reader data only pursuant to a valid, court-issued, probable cause  
23 warrant.

24 (5) Automated license plate reader data is not subject to  
25 disclosure under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW, except  
26 such data may be used for bona fide research as defined in RCW  
27 42.48.010 and does not include individually identifiable information.

28 (6) Any automated license plate reader system vendor must provide  
29 technical controls preventing unauthorized data sharing, secondary  
30 transfer, or access by nonauthorized agencies, including federal  
31 civil immigration enforcement in accordance with this chapter.

32 (7) Automated license plate reader system vendors are prohibited  
33 from selling, leasing, renting, or otherwise allowing access to  
34 automated license plate reader data to any nonauthorized agency,  
35 person, or entity.

36 (8) An automated license plate reader system vendor is prohibited  
37 from making any changes to an automated license plate reader system,  
38 including but not limited to software updates that may change sharing  
39 permissions, without the knowledge or explicit consent of the

1 authorized Washington agency. Automated license plate reader system  
2 vendors must default any settings related to sharing to prevent any  
3 sharing of an agency's data with any nonauthorized agency, person, or  
4 entity.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** ADMISSIBILITY IN COURT. Any information  
6 obtained from a knowing violation of section 3 of this act is  
7 inadmissible in any civil or criminal case in all courts of general  
8 or limited jurisdiction in this state, except with the permission of  
9 the person whose rights have been violated in an action brought for  
10 damages under section 10 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** POLICIES. (1) By July 1, 2027, the  
12 attorney general shall develop and publish model policies on the use  
13 of automated license plate reader systems consistent with this act.

14 (2)(a) By December 1, 2027, any agency that uses an automated  
15 license plate reader system pursuant to section 3(2) of this act  
16 shall:

17 (i) Adopt a policy governing use of the automated license plate  
18 reader system consistent with the model policies established under  
19 subsection (1) of this section and submit copies of the applicable  
20 policies to the attorney general; or, if the agency did not adopt  
21 policies consistent with the model policies, provide notice to the  
22 attorney general stating the reasons for any departures from the  
23 model policies and an explanation of how the agency's policies are  
24 consistent with the provisions of this act, and include a copy of the  
25 agency's relevant policies; and

26 (ii) Submit an annual report on its automated license plate  
27 reader system practices and usage to the appropriate committees of  
28 the legislature. The report must also be conspicuously posted on the  
29 agency's public website. The report shall include:

30 (A) The number of matches that resulted in traffic stops or  
31 arrests made with assistance from automated license plate reader  
32 systems, and the number of subsequent prosecutions;

33 (B) The number of stolen vehicles and stolen license plates  
34 recovered due to use of the system;

35 (C) The number of preservation requests and disclosure orders  
36 received;

1 (D) The number of times automated license plate reader data or  
2 audit trail data was shared with or accessed by another governmental  
3 entity and the identity of each of those governmental entities;

4 (E) The number of times automated license plate reader data was  
5 shared or accessed pursuant to a judicial warrant;

6 (F) Any changes in policy that affect data collection, retention  
7 period, access or sharing;

8 (G) Results from the agency's internal audit of its automated  
9 license plate reader system;

10 (H) The total annual number of automated license plate reader  
11 system reads, searches that yielded results, and alerts; and

12 (I) The locations of cameras used as part of automated license  
13 plate reader systems.

14 (b) Prior to or coincident with implementation of an automated  
15 license plate reader system, a local law enforcement agency shall  
16 take measures to promote public awareness on the use of such system.

17 (3) After December 1, 2026, whenever an agency modifies or  
18 repeals any policies pertaining to the use of automated license plate  
19 reader systems, the agency shall submit notice of such action with  
20 copies of any relevant policies to the attorney general within 60  
21 days.

22 (4) By December 31, 2027, the attorney general shall publish on  
23 its website a report on the requirements of this section, including  
24 copies of the model policies.

25 (5) Agencies that adopt policies required by this section must  
26 publish the policies on the agency website and submit a website link  
27 for those published policies with the attorney general. The attorney  
28 general is not required to publish those agency policies.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** AUDITS. (1) Each agency operating or  
30 accessing an automated license plate reader system shall maintain  
31 audit trail data documenting all access to the system. Audit trail  
32 data must be retained for two years and must include, at a minimum:

33 (a) A record of each action in which automated license plate  
34 reader data is accessed or searched, including:

35 (i) The identity or username of the person who accessed or  
36 queried the system, and as applicable, the organization or entity  
37 with whom the person is affiliated;

38 (ii) The date and time the automated license plate reader data or  
39 the automated license plate reader system was accessed or searched;

1 (iii) Data elements used to query the automated license plate  
2 reader system;

3 (iv) Specific purpose for accessing or querying the automated  
4 license plate reader system, including the offense type for any  
5 criminal investigation;

6 (v) The associated call for service or case number; and

7 (vi) The location of the cameras that are part of the automated  
8 license plate reader system accessed.

9 (b) All records of actions in which automated license plate  
10 reader data is exported, downloaded, or shared; and

11 (c) Any audit trail data generated by or made available through a  
12 third-party vendor providing automated license plate reader system  
13 services. Each agency shall ensure that all such vendor audit trail  
14 data is downloaded or otherwise obtained and retained by the agency  
15 in accordance with this section.

16 (2) Data elements used to query the automated license plate  
17 reader system and retained as audit trail data pursuant to subsection  
18 (1)(a) of this section may be used solely for auditing purposes and  
19 may not be searched, analyzed, compiled, or indexed for investigative  
20 purposes. Data elements that contain unique identifiers must be  
21 partially redacted in any public disclosure.

22 (3) Each agency shall conduct an internal audit at least once  
23 each year to review:

24 (a) All access to and use of the automated license plate reader  
25 system, as reflected in the audit trail data; and

26 (b) The agency's compliance with the data retention, purging, and  
27 sharing requirements established under this chapter and agency  
28 policy.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** VIOLATIONS—APPLICATION OF THE CONSUMER  
30 PROTECTION ACT. (1) The legislature finds that the practices covered  
31 by this chapter are matters vitally affecting the public interest for  
32 the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86  
33 RCW. A violation of this chapter is not reasonable in relation to the  
34 development and preservation of business and is an unfair or  
35 deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of  
36 competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act,  
37 chapter 19.86 RCW.

1 (2) This section applies only to persons, as defined in RCW  
2 19.86.010, who enter into contract with state and local government  
3 agencies authorized to use automated license plate reader systems.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** CRIMINAL PENALTIES. Any person who  
5 willfully and intentionally queries, accesses, or uses an automated  
6 license plate reader system for a purpose not specifically authorized  
7 under this chapter, or who willfully and intentionally retains,  
8 sells, shares, permits access, or disseminates automated license  
9 plate reader system data or audit trail data in violation of this  
10 chapter, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** CIVIL REMEDY. A person injured by a  
12 violation of this chapter may bring a civil action to recover any  
13 equitable, declaratory relief, or injunctive relief with respect to  
14 the violation; and recover all other appropriate relief, including  
15 monetary damages. The court may award to a person aggrieved by a  
16 violation of this chapter who prevails in an action brought under  
17 this section the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys'  
18 fees.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of  
20 this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held  
21 invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision  
22 to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 1 through 11 of this act  
24 constitute a new chapter in Title 10 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
27 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
28 effect immediately.

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2026.  
Passed by the House March 5, 2026.  
Approved by the Governor March 30, 2026.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 2026.

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