

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 241

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES YATES (Sponsor), DUSENBERG, GRISAMORE, DAVIS,
EL-AMIN AND ATKINS (Co-sponsors).

0978L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 304, RSMo, by adding thereto four new sections relating to the enforcement of traffic control signal violations, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 304, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto four new sections, to be known as sections 304.287, 304.288, 304.289, and 304.290, to read as follows:

304.287. 1. The provisions of sections 304.287 to 304.290 shall be known as the "Missouri Universal Red Light Enforcement Act" (MURLE). For the purposes of sections 304.287 to 304.290, the following terms mean:

(1) "Agency", any county, city, town, village, municipality, state agency, or other political subdivision of this state that is authorized to issue a notice of violation for a violation of a state or local traffic law or regulation;

(2) "Automated photo red light enforcement system" or "system", a device owned by an agency consisting of a camera or cameras and vehicle sensor or sensors, installed to work in conjunction with a traffic control signal;

(3) "Owner", the owner of a motor vehicle as shown on the motor vehicle registration records of the Missouri department of revenue or the analogous department or agency of another state or country. The term "owner" includes:

(a) A lessee of a motor vehicle under a lease of six months or more; or

(b) The lessee of a motor vehicle rented or leased from a motor vehicle rental or leasing company, but does not include the motor vehicle rental or leasing company itself.

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 If there is more than one owner of the motor vehicle, the primary owner will be deemed the
18 owner. If no primary owner is named, the first-listed owner will be deemed the owner;

19 (4) "Recorded image", an image recorded by an automated photo red light
20 enforcement system that depicts the rear view of a motor vehicle and is automatically
21 recorded by a high-resolution camera as a digital image;

22 (5) "Steady red signal indication violation" or "violation", a violation of a steady
23 red signal indication under sections 304.271 and 304.281 or substantially similar agency
24 ordinance or traffic laws;

25 (6) "Traffic control signal", a traffic control device that displays alternating red,
26 yellow, and green lights intended to direct traffic as when to stop at or proceed through an
27 intersection.

28 2. All automated photo red light enforcement systems shall be registered with the
29 Missouri department of transportation prior to installation. The department of
30 transportation shall collect a one-time registration fee of five hundred dollars per light and
31 all registration fees collected shall be deposited in the "Red Light Enforcement Fund"
32 hereby established. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall approve
33 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon
34 appropriation, money in the fund shall be used to conduct audits to ensure agency
35 compliance with the provisions of sections 304.271 to 304.281, including, but not limited
36 to, ensuring that the agency is distributing the fines collected as required under section
37 304.288. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any
38 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of
39 the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same
40 manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments
41 shall be credited to the fund.

42 3. No agency shall use an automated photo red light enforcement system unless the
43 system is capable of producing at least two high-resolution color digital recorded images
44 that show:

45 (1) The traffic control signal while it is emitting a steady red signal;

46 (2) The offending vehicle; and

47 (3) The rear license plate of the offending vehicle. One of the images must be of
48 sufficient resolution to show clearly, while the vehicle is in the intersection and while the
49 traffic signal is emitting a steady red signal, all three elements set forth in this subdivision
50 and subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

51 4. The automated photo red light enforcement system shall not capture images of
52 the front license plate of the motor vehicle.

53 **5. The automated photo red light enforcement system shall utilize a video recording**
54 **component which shall record the local time at which the two violation images were**
55 **captured, as well as at least five seconds before and at least five seconds after the violation**
56 **event.**

57 **6. No system may photograph or otherwise capture an image of the driver's face.**

58 **7. Agencies that utilize automated photo red light enforcement systems to detect**
59 **and enforce steady red signal indication violations are subject to the conditions and**
60 **limitations specified in sections 304.287 to 304.290.**

61 **8. Prior to activation of the system at an intersection:**

62 **(1) If not already present, the roadway first must be clearly marked with a white**
63 **stripe indicating the stop line and the perimeter of the intersection;**

64 **(2) Warning signs shall be installed within five hundred feet of the white stripe**
65 **indicating the stop line;**

66 **(3) Signal phase timings at intersections equipped with a system shall be certified**
67 **by the Missouri department of transportation before the automated photo red light**
68 **enforcement systems may be activated for enforcement purposes and any adjustment to**
69 **such timing shall be made only by a department of transportation traffic engineer. If an**
70 **agency alters the signal phase timing at an intersection without prior written approval**
71 **from the Missouri department of transportation and without certification by the**
72 **department of transportation traffic engineer, the agency shall be assessed a municipal fine**
73 **of fifty thousand dollars for a first offense and the red light device shall be removed upon**
74 **a subsequent violation. In no case shall a private vendor have the ability to control the**
75 **signal phase timing connected with a system.**

76 **9. Prior to installing the automated photo red light enforcement system, the agency**
77 **shall give notice of the intersection where the system will be located and of the date on**
78 **which the system will begin to monitor the intersection. The agency shall give reasonable**
79 **notice at least fourteen days prior to the installation of the system in a newspaper of**
80 **general circulation throughout the political subdivision served by the agency.**

81 **10. Any agency that implements a system shall submit an annual report to the**
82 **Missouri department of transportation. The report shall include, at a minimum:**

83 **(1) The number of intersections enforced by active systems;**

84 **(2) The number of notices of violation mailed;**

85 **(3) The number of notices of violation paid;**

86 **(4) The number of hearings; and**

87 **(5) The total revenue collected as a result of the program.**

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89 Any agency failing to complete the annual report required under this subsection within
90 forty-five days of the time such report is due shall be assessed a fine of fifty thousand
91 dollars and all automated photo red light enforcement systems shall be removed from the
92 agency's jurisdiction.

93 11. Within three years of the establishment of an automated photo traffic law
94 enforcement program, the implementing jurisdiction shall initiate a formal evaluation of
95 the program to determine the program's impact on traffic safety. That evaluation shall be
96 completed within one year.

97 12. An agency that establishes an automated photo red light enforcement system
98 may enter into an agreement or agreements for the purpose of compensating a private
99 vendor to perform operational and administrative tasks associated with the use of such
100 system. The notice of violation issued under section 304.288, however, shall not be issued
101 by a private vendor. Any compensation paid to a private vendor shall not be derived from
102 fines received for violations nor shall compensation be based upon the number of violations
103 mailed, the number of citations issued, the number of violations paid, or the amount of
104 revenue collected by the agency. The compensation paid to a private vendor shall be based
105 upon the value of the equipment and the services provided or rendered in support of the
106 system.

304.288. 1. Before a notice may be issued, all violation images produced by a
2 system shall be reviewed and approved by a law or code enforcement officer employed by
3 the agency in which the alleged violation occurred. Such review and acceptance shall be
4 based on a full review of the images that clearly demonstrate a violation.

5 2. Based on inspection of recorded images produced by a system, a notice of
6 violation or copy of such notice alleging that the violation occurred and signed manually
7 or digitally by a duly authorized agent of the agency shall be evidence of the facts
8 contained therein and shall be admissible in any proceeding alleging a violation under
9 sections 304.287 to 304.290.

10 3. An agency shall mail or cause to be mailed a notice of violation by certified mail
11 to the owner of the motor vehicle, which notice shall include, in addition to the
12 requirements of supreme court rule no. 37:

13 (1) The name and address of the owner of the vehicle;

14 (2) The registration number of the motor vehicle involved in the violation;

15 (3) A copy of the two recorded images and a zoomed and cropped image of the
16 vehicle license plate which was extracted from one of the two images;

17 (4) Information advising the registered owner of how he or she can review the
18 video, photographic, and recorded images that captured the alleged violation. The agency
19 may provide access to the video and other recorded images through the Internet. If access
20 to the video and other recorded images is provided through the Internet, the agency shall
21 ensure that such video and recorded images are accessible only to the registered owner
22 through a password-protected system;

23 (5) A manually or digitally signed statement by a law or code enforcement officer
24 employed by the agency that, based on inspection of the two recorded images and video
25 sequence, the motor vehicle was operated in violation of a traffic control device or
26 prevailing traffic laws or statutes;

27 (6) Information advising the registered owner of the manner, time, and place in
28 which liability as alleged in the notice of violation may be contested, and warning that
29 failure to pay the civil penalty or to contest liability within fourteen days from the mailing
30 of notice is an admission of liability; and

31 (7) Information advising the registered owner that he or she may file an affidavit
32 under subsection 8 of this section stating that he or she was not the operator of the vehicle
33 at the time of the violation.

34 4. A notice of violation issued under this section shall be mailed no later than three
35 business days after the violation was recorded by the automated photo red light
36 enforcement system. The issuance of a notice of violation under this section shall be made
37 by the agency, and shall not be subcontracted to a third party.

38 5. The civil penalties and court costs imposed for a violation detected and enforced
39 pursuant to a system shall not exceed an amount that would have been imposed if the
40 violation had been detected by a law enforcement officer present when the violation
41 occurred. In no event shall the combined fine and court costs exceed twenty-five dollars.
42 Any fine collected under this section shall go to the local school district where the
43 infraction occurred and shall not be distributed through the school funding mechanisms
44 of section 163.031, RSMo. The chief elected official of any agency failing to distribute the
45 funds as directed under this subsection shall be subject to criminal liability.

46 6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including but not limited
47 to, sections 304.271, 304.281, 304.361, and 304.570, any person who commits a steady red
48 light violation that is detected and enforced through an automated photo red light
49 enforcement system is guilty of an infraction. A penalty imposed by an agency for a
50 violation detected pursuant to a system shall not be deemed a moving violation and shall
51 not be made part of the operating record of the person upon whom such liability is

52 imposed, nor shall such imposition of a penalty be subject to merit rating for insurance
53 purposes and no surcharge points shall be imposed in the provision of motor vehicle
54 insurance coverage. In no case shall points be assessed against any person under section
55 302.302, RSMo, for a violation detected by an automated photo red light enforcement
56 system.

57 7. Payment of the established fine and any applicable civil penalties shall operate
58 as a final disposition of the case. Payment of the fine and any penalties, whether before or
59 after hearing, by one motor vehicle owner shall be satisfaction of the fine as to all other
60 motor vehicle owners of the same motor vehicle for the same violation.

61 8. In the prosecution of a steady red signal indication violation under sections
62 304.287 to 304.290, the agency shall have the burden of proving that the vehicle described
63 in the notice of violation issued under this section was operated in violation of sections
64 304.287 to 304.290 and that the defendant was at the time of such violation the owner and
65 the driver of such vehicle. The agency shall not enter into any plea-bargaining agreements
66 in relation to any violation occurring under sections 304.287 to 304.290.

2 304.289. 1. For each automated photo red light enforcement system that is installed
2 at an intersection by an agency, during the first thirty days the system is monitoring an
3 intersection, the agency shall issue only warning notices and shall not issue any ticket or
4 citation for any violation detected by the system.

5 2. No agency shall employ the use of a photo radar system to enforce speeding
6 violations. As used in this subsection, the term "photo radar system" shall mean a device
7 used primarily for highway speed limit enforcement substantially consisting of a radar unit
8 linked to a camera, which automatically produces a photograph of a motor vehicle
9 traveling in excess of the legal speed limit.

2 304.290. Photographic and other recorded evidence obtained through the use of
2 automated photo red light enforcement devices shall be maintained according to law and
3 shall be maintained by the appropriate agency for a period of at least three years. Such
4 photographic and other recorded evidence obtained through the use of an automated photo
5 red light enforcement system shall be confidential and shall not be deemed a "public
6 record" under section 610.010, RSMo, and shall not be subject to the provisions of section
7 109.180, RSMo, or chapter 610, RSMo.

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