

SUPPORT HB 5151: Protect Illinois drivers. Establish common sense regulation. Reduce mass surveillance and indiscriminate tracking.

SPONSORS: Grasse, Tarver, Gonzalez, Mah, Canty, Ammons, Cassidy, L. Davis, Slaughter, Mayfield, Moeller, Jiminez, Crawford, Blair-Sherlock, Cochran, Rashid, Guzzardi, Stava

HB 5151 - the Automated License Plate Recognition System Act (ALPRS Act)

1. Creates needed statewide regulations: sets limits on when and how law enforcement agencies and government entities in Illinois can use automatic license plate readers.

- Law enforcement: investigations involving missing persons; vehicles stolen, vehicle crashes, felony warrants, or forcible felonies
- Government entities: tolls, parking enforcement, access to secured areas
- Identifying, tracking, and investigating whether vehicles or license plates associated with or used by federal or out of state agencies are engaged in unlawful conduct:

2. Sets standards for how long ALPR data can be retained

- 3 days for non-hit data
- As long as it is needed for authorized purposes (for example: finding a missing person or criminal investigations)

3. Limits who can access ALPR data: strictly limits the sharing of data and prohibits the selling of data

4. Minimizes warrantless surveillance

- ALPRs **cannot** be equipped with or used in conjunction with any facial recognition or other biometric technology.
- ALPR systems and ALPR data **cannot** be used for monitoring or surveillance of Illinoisans, including when engaged in First Amendment activity, accessing sensitive health services, or unauthorized immigration enforcement.

5. Increases transparency

- Requires a public presentation for community members that includes a meaningful opportunity to comment, ask questions, and raise concerns before ALPRs are used.
- Requires data collection and reporting that provides annual information on the number and types of cameras used, the number of license plates scanned, and whether they resulted in a hit that led to an arrest or conviction.

6. Improves accountability: provides a range of tools to ensure real accountability when ALPRs and the data collected from ALPRs are misused including:

- **Vendor accountability:** gives law enforcement agencies and government entities the ability to end a contract when a vendor allows access to data or shares data that conflicts with the requirements under the Act.
- **Law enforcement agencies and government entities:** failure to follow the requirements under the Act can result in ALPR access freeze or disciplinary action.
- **Private right of action:** available to law enforcement agencies and government entities when a vendor violates the act and to someone who is injured as a result of violations of this act.

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ACLU Illinois

WHY ILLINOISANS NEED STATEWIDE REGULATION

- State and local government agencies are increasingly deploying ALPR devices, which can read the license plate of every vehicle that drives by their lens, to monitor and record vehicle locations.
- ALPRs are mass surveillance tools. They are computer-controlled cameras that automatically capture all license plates (and more) that come into view, store that data (including the time, date, and location of the scan), and allow it to be compared to external watch lists and databases, some of which may not be accurately maintained. Over time, ALPRs function like a location tracker the government places on your car to monitor your movements—just in case you do something of interest to them.
- ALPRs scan and store license plate data from countless Illinois drivers every day, allowing law enforcement agencies and government entities to track when people drive and where they go. As we've learned in 2025, federal agencies and out-of-state law enforcement agencies can—and have accessed ALPR data collected in Illinois, which can be used to target immigrants, people seeking reproductive or gender-affirming care, protesters, and anyone else the government decides is a threat.
- While ALPRs have been around for a while, they have grown immensely in number and capability over the past few years. Much of this growth is due to the activity of vendors who target Illinois municipalities and cities to pitch ALPRs and convince city officials to sign contracts for technology that track their own constituents. While the exact number is not known due to a lack of a statewide reporting requirement, it is estimated, based on [open source data](#) reporting, that 258 IL agencies and entities may be in possession of ALPRs.

Unregulated Use of ALPRs Chills Free Speech and Expression

When people know they are being tracked, they are less likely to attend a political protest, visit a specific place of worship, or organize within their community.

- **Guilt by Association** – This technology captures not just license plates, but bumper stickers and other vehicle details, allowing police to search for vehicles based on citizens' political beliefs.
- **Chilling Free Speech** – Studies confirm that the presence of surveillance tools deters attendance at political and religious events. People should not have to choose between their rights and their privacy.
- **Eroding Public Trust** – Safety is built on trust between the community and its public servants. Mass surveillance creates a culture of suspicion, not trust.