

HOUSE BILL 1781

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-198, relative to notices of violation or citation based on evidence from unmanned traffic enforcement cameras.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-198(b), is amended by deleting subdivisions (1) and (2) and substituting instead the following:

(1) Only POST-certified or state-commissioned law enforcement officers shall be authorized to review video evidence from a traffic light signal monitoring system and make a determination as to whether a violation has occurred. If a determination is made that a violation has occurred, an initial notice of violation or citation shall be sent by first class mail to the registered owner of the vehicle that was captured by the traffic light signal monitoring system. The initial notice of violation or citation shall be sent within twenty (20) business days after the occurrence of the violation, absent exigent circumstances arising from registration irregularities. All notices of violation or citation shall have a Tennessee return address, and all responses and payments shall be made to an address in this state. All notices of violation or citation shall state the amount of the fine that is being assessed for the alleged violation, and shall state separately any additional fees or court costs that may be assessed if the fine is not paid timely or if the violation or citation is contested and the person is convicted or found guilty of the offense. The initial notice of violation or citation shall allow for payment of the traffic violation or citation within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the initial notice or citation. If no payment or response is made within the thirty-day period, then a second notice of violation or citation shall be sent by first class mail to the registered owner of the motor

vehicle and the second notice shall provide for an additional thirty (30) days for payment of the violation or citation.

(2) No additional penalty or other costs shall be assessed for nonpayment of a traffic violation or citation that is based solely on evidence obtained from unmanned traffic enforcement cameras installed to enforce or monitor traffic violations, unless a final notice is sent by first class mail to the registered owner of the motor vehicle and the final notice provides for an additional thirty (30) days for payment of the violation or citation.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.