



January 21, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the issuance of traffic citations based solely on evidence obtained from unmanned traffic cameras used to monitor and enforce traffic signal violations or speed limits. Requires a notice of a violation or a citation be sent by first-class mail within 20 business days after the occurrence of the violation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease Local Revenue – Exceeds \$5,946,200/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years

Other Fiscal Impact – It can be reasonably estimated the mandatory decrease in local revenue under this legislation will result in local authorities eventually discontinuing their usage of unmanned traffic enforcement cameras; the timing of which cannot be determined with reasonable certainty.

Assumptions:

- This legislation is only relevant to local government; any fiscal impact to the state is considered not significant.
- The Fiscal Review Committee surveyed local governments on the subject of unmanned traffic cameras in 2019. Of the 23 respondents, 13 utilize unmanned traffic cameras. This survey was prior to passage of Public Chapter 418 of 2019, which authorized local education agencies to install cameras on school buses to record vehicles that unlawfully pass. Thus, the citations noted are all assumed to be speeding or traffic signal violations.
- Most unmanned traffic enforcement cameras are operated by third-party contractors paid by percentage of fines collected.
- Of the 13 local governments that responded to the survey that operate unmanned traffic cameras, the annual net revenue for FY18-19 as a result of citations paid was \$5,946,187. It is estimated this number is fairly stable across fiscal years.
- Therefore, this legislation will result in a mandatory decrease in local revenue of at least \$5,946,187 in FY20-21 and subsequent years.
- It can be reasonably assumed that, under the provisions of this legislation, local authorities will eventually discontinue their use of unmanned traffic enforcement cameras as a sole source of evidence. However, the timing of such cannot be reasonably determined.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-198, a notice of violation or citation based solely on evidence obtained from an unmanned traffic enforcement camera must be mailed to the

registered owner of the vehicle and allow for payment of the traffic violation or citation. Additional fees or court costs may be assessed if the person cited does not pay the traffic citation after a second notice or appears in court at the proper time and does not prevail.

- As a result of this legislation, the notices of violations or citations must be sent to the registered owner of the vehicle that was captured by the camera by first-class mail within 20 business days after the occurrence of the violation.
- Traffic citations issued solely on evidence obtained from unmanned traffic cameras used to monitor and enforce traffic signal violations or speed limits would be prohibited under this legislation. Those violations currently account for the vast majority of citations mailed, which would result in less mail being issued, but as the notification is required to be first-class mail, the change in expenditures is expected to be negligible; therefore there will not be a significant impact to local expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jmg