

Fact Sheet

Red Light Running - 1

- **H.3512 An Act Permitting the use of traffic control signal violation monitoring system devices as a means of promoting traffic safety in the cities of the Commonwealth.**
- **H. 3513. An Act Permitting the use of traffic control signal violation monitoring system devices as a means of promoting traffic safety in Boston and Cambridge**

The problem: Increasing numbers of drivers running red lights

- Drivers who run red lights seriously undermine intersection safety.
- Ignoring red light signals is dangerous both for other drivers in the intersection and for pedestrians in the crosswalks.
- There are few methods of controlling the practice, unless law enforcement officials are present to observe the behavior and cite the driver for the infraction.

Need for legislation

- Police personnel cannot monitor all intersections in a jurisdiction.
- Red light running is a growing safety concern to drivers and pedestrians.
- Traffic slows down if the presence of a monitoring machine is known to the public.
- Where drivers continue to violate laws, a method of deterrence is essential.

Bill Summary

Allows political subdivisions of the state to:

- Employ traffic control signal violation monitoring systems and electronic speed monitoring systems.
- Ensure privacy of driver through photos of rear of vehicles only.
- Observe specific constraints to allay concerns of potential abuse.
- Process certification of photos and police affidavits as prima facie evidence.
- Establish method of destroying evidence after a lapse of time.
- Protect photos from discovery in judicial or administrative proceedings.
- Impose penalties for failure to comply with signal laws [Max: \$100/ violation].
- Establish a notice, hearing and adjudication process.
- Establish exceptions for specific circumstances (e.g. funeral processions).
- Prevent use of a penalty as a criminal conviction, as part or operating records or as part of insurance merit ratings or surcharge points.

Other jurisdictions

- The Town of Saugus has signed a contract to install two red light monitoring devices in the town by summer 2007.
- Traffic monitoring cameras are in use in over 200 communities in 22 states and the District of Columbia.