

# SENATE BILL 699

E4, P1

4lr2874  
CF HB 289

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By: **Senators Shank, Raskin, Hershey, Jacobs, Muse, Ramirez, Reilly, Simonaire, Stone, ~~and Young~~ Young, and Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2014

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Automatic ~~Motor Vehicle Registration~~ License Plate Readers and Captured**  
3 **Plate Data – Authorized Uses**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting a person from using an automatic motor vehicle~~  
5 ~~registration plate reader system, subject to a certain exception for a law~~  
6 ~~enforcement agency for certain purposes; prohibiting a law enforcement agency~~  
7 ~~from sharing captured plate data for other than certain purposes, subject to a~~  
8 ~~certain exception; prohibiting a law enforcement agency from retaining~~  
9 ~~captured plate data for more than a certain period of time and requiring the law~~  
10 ~~enforcement agency to destroy the captured plate data after that time period,~~  
11 ~~subject to a certain exception for a certain purpose; requiring a law enforcement~~  
12 ~~agency that retains captured plate data for more than the time period allowed~~  
13 ~~under this Act to destroy the captured plate data at the conclusion of certain~~  
14 ~~activity or proceedings; altering the definition of “covert investigation” to~~  
15 ~~include the use of an automatic registration plate reader system for purposes of~~  
16 ~~expanding the application of the prohibition against a law enforcement agency~~  
17 ~~conducting a covert investigation of certain persons engaged in First~~  
18 ~~Amendment activities; requiring a custodian of captured plate data collected by~~  
19 ~~an automatic registration plate reader system to deny inspection of the captured~~  
20 ~~plate data, subject to certain exceptions; prohibiting a law enforcement agency~~  
21 from using captured plate data unless the agency has a legitimate law  
22 enforcement purpose; establishing certain penalties for a certain violation;  
23 requiring the Department of State Police and certain law enforcement agencies  
24 to adopt certain procedures; establishing that information gathered by an

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 automatic license plate reader system is not subject to disclosure under the  
 2 Maryland Public Information Act; requiring the Department, in conjunction  
 3 with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center and certain law  
 4 enforcement agencies, to report certain information to certain committees on or  
 5 before a certain date each year; requiring the Center, in cooperation with  
 6 certain entities, to develop a certain model audit policy; establishing the policy  
 7 of the State; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the authorized  
 8 uses of automatic ~~motor vehicle registration~~ license plate reader systems and  
 9 captured plate data.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Public Safety  
 12 Section 3–509  
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 14 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

16 ~~Article – Public Safety~~  
 17 ~~Section 3–701(a)(1) and (e)~~  
 18 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 19 ~~(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

20 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

21 ~~Article – Public Safety~~  
 22 ~~Section 3–701(a)(3)~~  
 23 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 24 ~~(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

25 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

26 ~~Article – State Government~~  
 27 ~~Section 10–616(a)~~  
 28 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 29 ~~(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

30 BY adding to

31 ~~Article – State Government~~  
 32 ~~Section 10–616(w)~~  
 33 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 34 ~~(2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)~~

35 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

36 Article – General Provisions  
 37 Section 4–304  
 38 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 39 (As enacted by Chapter (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
 40 2014)

1 BY adding to  
 2 Article – General Provisions  
 3 Section 4–326  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (H.B. 270) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
 6 2014)

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 8 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article – Public Safety**

10 **3–509.**

11 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE  
 12 MEANINGS INDICATED.

13 (2) (I) “ACTIVE DATA” MEANS:

14 1. DATA UPLOADED TO INDIVIDUAL AUTOMATIC  
 15 LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM UNITS BEFORE OPERATION; AND

16 2. DATA GATHERED DURING THE OPERATION OF AN  
 17 AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM.

18 (II) “ACTIVE DATA” DOES NOT INCLUDE HISTORICAL DATA.

19 ~~(2)~~ (3) “AUTOMATIC ~~REGISTRATION~~ LICENSE PLATE READER  
 20 SYSTEM” MEANS A SYSTEM OF ONE OR MORE MOBILE OR FIXED ~~AUTOMATED~~  
 21 HIGH–SPEED CAMERAS USED IN COMBINATION WITH COMPUTER ALGORITHMS  
 22 TO CONVERT IMAGES OF LICENSE PLATES INTO COMPUTER–READABLE DATA.

23 ~~(3)~~ (4) (I) “CAPTURED PLATE DATA” MEANS THE GLOBAL  
 24 POSITIONING SYSTEM COORDINATES, DATES AND TIMES, PHOTOGRAPHS,  
 25 LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS, AND ANY OTHER DATA COLLECTED BY OR DERIVED  
 26 FROM AN AUTOMATIC ~~REGISTRATION~~ LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM.

27 (II) “CAPTURED PLATE DATA” INCLUDES ACTIVE DATA AND  
 28 HISTORICAL DATA.

29 (5) “CENTER” MEANS THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND  
 30 ANALYSIS CENTER.

31 (6) “HISTORICAL DATA” MEANS ANY DATA COLLECTED BY AN  
 32 AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM AND STORED IN AN AUTOMATIC

1 LICENSE PLATE READER DATABASE OPERATED BY THE MARYLAND  
2 COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER OR BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

3 (7) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" MEANS AN AGENCY THAT IS  
4 LISTED IN § 3-101(E) OF THIS TITLE.

5 (8) "LEGITIMATE LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSE" MEANS THE  
6 INVESTIGATION, DETECTION, OR ANALYSIS OF A CRIME OR A VIOLATION OF THE  
7 MARYLAND VEHICLE LAWS OR THE OPERATION OF TERRORIST OR MISSING OR  
8 ENDANGERED PERSON SEARCHES OR ALERTS.

9 (B) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT USE CAPTURED  
10 PLATE DATA UNLESS THE AGENCY HAS A LEGITIMATE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
11 PURPOSE.

12 (2) AN EMPLOYEE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WHO  
13 VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1  
14 YEAR AND A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR BOTH.

15 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE AND ANY LAW  
16 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY USING AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM  
17 SHALL ADOPT PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE OPERATION AND USE OF THE  
18 SYSTEM.

19 (2) THE PROCEDURES SHALL INCLUDE:

20 (I) WHICH PERSONNEL IN THE CENTER OR A LAW  
21 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ARE AUTHORIZED TO QUERY CAPTURED PLATE DATA  
22 GATHERED BY AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM;

23 (II) AN AUDIT PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT INFORMATION  
24 OBTAINED THROUGH THE USE OF AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER  
25 SYSTEM IS USED ONLY FOR LEGITIMATE LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES,  
26 INCLUDING AUDITS OF REQUESTS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
27 AGENCIES OR AN INDIVIDUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; AND

28 (III) PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT  
29 CENTER STAFF WITH ACCESS TO THE AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER  
30 DATABASE ARE ADEQUATELY SCREENED AND TRAINED.

31 (D) INFORMATION GATHERED BY AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE  
32 READER SYSTEM IS NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE MARYLAND  
33 PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.

1           **(E) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
2 **STATE POLICE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
3 **AGENCIES THAT MAINTAIN AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER DATABASE,**  
4 **SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE, THE**  
5 **HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, AND THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE,**  
6 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE**  
7 **FOLLOWING INFORMATION BASED ON DATA FROM THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR**  
8 **YEAR:**

9           **(1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER**  
10 **UNITS BEING OPERATED IN THE STATE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND**  
11 **THE NUMBER OF UNITS SUBMITTING DATA TO THE CENTER;**

12           **(2) THE NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER**  
13 **READINGS MADE BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT MAINTAINS AN**  
14 **AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER DATABASE AND THE NUMBER OF**  
15 **READINGS SUBMITTED TO THE CENTER;**

16           **(3) THE NUMBER OF AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER**  
17 **READINGS BEING RETAINED ON THE AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER**  
18 **DATABASE;**

19           **(4) THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS MADE TO THE CENTER AND EACH**  
20 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT MAINTAINS AN AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE**  
21 **READER DATABASE FOR AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER DATA, INCLUDING**  
22 **SPECIFIC NUMBERS FOR:**

23                   **(I) THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS THAT RESULTED IN A**  
24 **RELEASE OF INFORMATION;**

25                   **(II) THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-STATE REQUESTS;**

26                   **(III) THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL REQUESTS;**

27                   **(IV) THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-STATE REQUESTS THAT**  
28 **RESULTED IN A RELEASE OF INFORMATION; AND**

29                   **(V) THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL REQUESTS THAT RESULTED**  
30 **IN A RELEASE OF INFORMATION;**

31           **(5) ANY DATA BREACHES OR UNAUTHORIZED USES OF THE**  
32 **AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER DATABASE; AND**

1           **(6) A LIST OF AUDITS THAT WERE COMPLETED BY THE CENTER**  
2 **OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**

3           ~~**(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**~~  
4 ~~**SUBSECTION, A PERSON MAY NOT USE AN AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION PLATE**~~  
5 ~~**READER SYSTEM.**~~

6           ~~**(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY USE AN AUTOMATIC**~~  
7 ~~**REGISTRATION PLATE READER SYSTEM TO:**~~

8                     ~~**(I) PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY;**~~

9                     ~~**(II) CONDUCT A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION; OR**~~

10                    ~~**(III) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE, OR**~~  
11 ~~**FEDERAL LAW.**~~

12           ~~**(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**~~  
13 ~~**SUBSECTION, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT USE OR SHARE**~~  
14 ~~**CAPTURED PLATE DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THOSE STATED IN**~~  
15 ~~**SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION.**~~

16           ~~**(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY SHARE WITH ANOTHER**~~  
17 ~~**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CAPTURED PLATE DATA THAT INDICATES**~~  
18 ~~**EVIDENCE OF AN OFFENSE.**~~

19           ~~**(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**~~  
20 ~~**SUBSECTION, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY:**~~

21                     ~~**(I) MAY NOT RETAIN CAPTURED PLATE DATA FOR MORE**~~  
22 ~~**THAN 30 DAYS; AND**~~

23                     ~~**(II) SHALL DESTROY CAPTURED PLATE DATA AFTER 30**~~  
24 ~~**DAYS.**~~

25                     ~~**(2) (I) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY RETAIN CAPTURED**~~  
26 ~~**PLATE DATA FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS AS PART OF AN ONGOING CRIMINAL**~~  
27 ~~**INVESTIGATION.**~~

28                     ~~**(II) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT RETAINS**~~  
29 ~~**CAPTURED PLATE DATA FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH**~~  
30 ~~**SHALL DESTROY THE CAPTURED PLATE DATA AT THE CONCLUSION OF:**~~

~~1. ANY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION THAT INVOLVED THE CAPTURED PLATE DATA BUT DID NOT RESULT IN THE FILING OF CRIMINAL CHARGES; OR~~

~~2. ANY LEGAL ACTION UNDERTAKEN THAT INVOLVED THE CAPTURED PLATE DATA.~~

~~3-701.~~

(a) (1) ~~In this section the following words have the meanings indicated:~~

(3) (i) ~~“Covert investigation” means an infiltration of or attempt to infiltrate a group or organization in a manner that conceals the identity of the law enforcement agency or the identity of an officer or agent of the law enforcement agency.~~

(ii) ~~“COVERT INVESTIGATION” INCLUDES THE USE OF AN AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION PLATE READER SYSTEM UNDER § 3-509 OF THIS TITLE.~~

(iii) ~~“Covert investigation” does not include the use of plainclothes officers or employees for crowd control and public safety purposes at public events.~~

(c) (1) ~~A law enforcement agency may not conduct a covert investigation of a person, a group, or an organization engaged in First Amendment activities unless the chief or the chief’s designee makes a written finding in advance or as soon as is practicable afterwards that the covert investigation is justified because:~~

(i) ~~it is based on a reasonable, articulable suspicion that the person, group, or organization is planning or engaged in criminal activity; and~~

(ii) ~~a less intrusive method of investigation is not likely to yield satisfactory results.~~

(2) ~~Membership or participation in a group or organization engaged in First Amendment activities does not alone establish reasonable, articulable suspicion of criminal activity.~~

## Article – ~~State Government~~ General Provisions

~~10-616. 4-304.~~

(a) ~~Unless otherwise provided by law, a custodian shall deny inspection of a public record, as provided in this section part.~~

1 4-326.

2 ~~(W)~~ (A) (1) ~~(H)~~ IN THIS ~~SUBSECTION~~ SECTION THE FOLLOWING  
3 WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

4 ~~(H)~~ (2) “AUTOMATIC ~~REGISTRATION~~ LICENSE PLATE  
5 READER SYSTEM” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-509 OF THE PUBLIC  
6 SAFETY ARTICLE.

7 ~~(H)~~ (3) “CAPTURED PLATE DATA” HAS THE MEANING  
8 STATED IN § 3-509 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

9 ~~(2)~~ (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ~~PARAGRAPH (3)~~ SUBSECTIONS  
10 (C) AND (D) OF THIS ~~SUBSECTION~~ SECTION, A CUSTODIAN OF CAPTURED PLATE  
11 DATA COLLECTED BY AN AUTOMATIC ~~REGISTRATION~~ LICENSE PLATE READER  
12 SYSTEM SHALL DENY INSPECTION OF THE CAPTURED PLATE DATA.

13 ~~(3)~~ (C) A CUSTODIAN MAY USE OR SHARE CAPTURED PLATE  
14 DATA IN THE COURSE OF THE CUSTODIAN’S DUTIES AS AUTHORIZED UNDER §  
15 3-509 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

16 (D) SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN  
17 ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM OR ASSOCIATED TRANSACTION  
18 SYSTEM OPERATED BY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND  
19 TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,  
21 2015, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, in cooperation with the  
22 Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs Association, shall  
23 develop a model audit policy for access to and use of automatic license plate reader  
24 data.

25 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
26 effect October 1, 2014.