
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 135 (S.184). An act relating to the temporary use of automated traffic law enforcement (ATLE) systems

Subjects: Motor vehicles; traffic violations; traffic cameras; traffic enforcement; moving violations; automated law enforcement; automated license plate recognition systems; automated traffic law enforcement systems

This act proposes to improve work crew safety and reduce traffic crashes in limited-access highway work zones by establishing an automated traffic law enforcement (ATLE) pilot program that uses radar and cameras to enforce speeding violations against the registered owner of the violating motor vehicle by capturing the rear registration number plate in a recorded image.

Specifically, this act creates a 15-month pilot program wherein the Agency of Transportation (VTrans) contracts with a vendor for the deployment, operation, and maintenance of the ATLE system in highway work zones. The ATLE system only activates when workers are present, when a vehicle exceeds 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, and when there is a sign indicating that the system is currently in operation. The locations are selected by VTrans and will be indicated by at least two signs notifying members of the traveling public before entering the ATLE location and a sign upon leaving the location. The vendor is responsible for maintaining the database on a confidential basis. The data collected cannot be used for any purpose other than enforcing speeding violations.

Registered owners of motor vehicles that exceed 10 miles per hour over the speed limit within the ATLE locations are liable for violations. Law enforcement reviews database images and sends out an attested civil violation complaint to the owner by U.S. mail. The owner is fined \$0.00 for a first violation within 12 months; \$80.00 for a second violation within 12 months, provided notice of the first violation was mailed at least 30 days prior to the violation; and \$160.00 for a third or subsequent violation within 12 months. All violations are within the jurisdiction of the Judicial Bureau.

An implementation and outreach campaign shall occur before the ATLE system operates between July 1, 2025, and October 1, 2026. The outreach campaign shall be implemented not later than April 1, 2025, to educate the public on the pilot program. Moreover, the pilot program is contingent on the receipt of federal funding. Thus, if federal funding is not received, the ATLE pilot program will be repealed.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 30, 2024