

# HB 18-1072



EMPOWERED CITIES AND TOWNS, UNITED FOR A STRONG COLORADO

## RED LIGHT/PHOTO RADAR PROHIBIT AUTOMATIC CAMERA TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

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### YOUR “NO” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

HB 18-1072 prohibits the use of automated vehicle identification systems by law enforcement. Commonly known as “red light camera” and “photo speed radar” these law enforcement tools use automated systems to record violations of speed limits and traffic signal compliance. The only goal of this tool is to gain motorist compliance with the law. Speed limits are to be observed and red light signals obeyed whether or not a police car is present.

Use of this law enforcement tool is controlled in each municipality by city council. These elected officials are responsive to community opinion and local safety concerns. Councils have weighed these factors with some cities discontinuing the use of this tool.

The use of photo speed radar enforcement is already strictly limited to residential streets, school zones and construction zones. It can be used only where the speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour. A violator must be exceeding the speed limit by at least 10 miles per hour to receive a ticket. Photo speed radar vans are manned by qualified personnel. Red light cameras are deployed at selected high risk intersections. Fines are limited to a maximum \$40 for speeding and \$75 for red light infractions. No points are assessed against a driver’s record.

Motorists observing traffic laws never receive a citation.

Examples of improved safety brought forward in previous testimony:

- Fort Collins: Before use of photo speed radar city-wide, a speed limit compliance survey found only 19% compliance. That figure is now 60% compliance.
- Commerce City: U.S. 85 and 60th Avenue intersection recorded a 41 percent decrease in accidents from 2012 to 2013. For the first three years this camera has been in operation the number of citations decreased from 8,637 the first year to 5,457 the third year.
- Boulder: Intersections with red light cameras together have seen a 68% decrease in accidents since installation and a 72% decrease in violations.
- Denver: At the four locations where red light cameras operate, incidents of red light running have decreased and accidents have gone down. The data from photo radar vans is conclusive as well. The presence of the van for five consecutive days results in a 21% reduction in excessive speeding (vehicles traveling 10+ MPH over the speed limit).

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