



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE



NO
SB26-070



Ban Government Access to Historical Location Information

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

Senate Bill 26-070 would place significant and unworkable restrictions on a law enforcement's ability to use automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology and other historical location information. Cities and towns are already on the frontlines of creating reasonable guardrails around this technology. SB26-070 doesn't build on those efforts, it overrides them with rigid, statewide mandates that do not reflect how investigations work. While framed as a privacy measure, SB26-070 ties the hands of law enforcement to use lawfully collected information for legitimate public safety purposes and victim assistance.

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE NO

CML has worked in good faith with the bill sponsors to identify reasonable, balanced guardrails for the use of this technology. Those efforts have been unsuccessful. As drafted, SB26-070 imposes rigid mandates that are disconnected from investigative realities and municipal operations.

- SB26-070 requires a warrant to access historical local information that is more than 72 hours old, which does not reflect how investigations work. For instance, if law enforcement only has a vehicle description or half of a license plate number, it is not possible to obtain a warrant, which means law enforcement wouldn't be able to access critical data that could help close an investigation.
- Traffic enforcement cameras would have to permanently delete their data after 30 days because they are looped into the definition of "historical location data." This is not reflective of how the technology is used because that data may be needed for disputes or other court proceedings.
- The bill no longer excludes historical location information from the definition of "public record," suggesting such data may be subject to an open records request.
- SB26-070 imposes burdensome and costly supervisor approval, data logging, training, and reporting requirements on law enforcement.

YOUR OPPOSITION IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

CML respectfully requests your NO vote on SB26-070. The result of SB70 is not better oversight, but fewer tools and diminished capacity to enhance public safety and support victims in the worst moments of their lives. Colorado can address public concern about this sensitive data without enacting a framework that undermines the ability of local governments to do their jobs.

CONTACT

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What SB26-070 Means for VICTIMS of CRIME



DELAYED IDENTIFICATION OF SUSPECTS

Many investigations begin with limited information. ALPR technology helps officers quickly narrow possible vehicles, timelines, and locations. SB26-070's warrant requirement before accessing data, even after 72 hours, slows investigations at the earliest and most critical stages, delaying justice for victims.



LOSS OF EVIDENCE BEFORE IT CAN BE USED

The bill requires historical location data to be permanently deleted after just 30 days. Victims often do not immediately report crimes, and investigators may not recognize the relevance of data until patterns emerge. This short retention window risks permanent loss of information that could otherwise help identify suspects or corroborate victim statements. For example, if a vehicle is stolen while the owner is on vacation, investigators may lose crucial evidence before the crime is even reported.



FEWER INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS FOR PROPERTY AND VIOLENT CRIMES

ALPR systems are commonly used in cases involving stolen vehicles, hit-and-run crashes, burglaries and theft rings, assaults and robberies, and missing persons investigations. SB26-070 significantly limits the ability to use this technology in routine investigations, even when data was lawfully collected and accessed for legitimate public safety purposes.



REDUCED ABILITY TO SOLVE AND CONNECT CRIMES

Crimes are often solved by identifying patterns across multiple incidents, such as serial burglaries, theft rings, hit-and-runs, or assaults. SB26-070's strict retention limits and access restrictions make it harder to link cases over time, decreasing the likelihood of identifying repeat offenders and providing closure to victims.



INCREASED BURDEN ON COURTS DELAYS JUSTICE

The bill requires warrants for investigative steps that currently do not require judicial approval. This increases demands on already overburdened courts and judges, leading to delays that directly affect victims waiting for answers, accountability, or closure.



LESS TIMELY HELP FOR VICTIMS

ALPR and other location data are also used to help victims recover property, locate stolen vehicles, and provide updates about investigations. Restricting access to this information limits municipalities' ability to respond quickly and effectively to victim needs.

BOTTOM LINE

SB26-070, Ban Government Access to Historical Location Information, prioritizes rigid statutory requirements over practical investigative timelines, increasing the likelihood of delayed investigations, lost evidence, and unresolved cases. Victims deserve safeguards for civil liberties and a justice system that can respond effectively when crimes occur.

CONTACT Colorado Municipal League Legislative & Policy Advocate **OWEN BRIGNER** at obrigner@cml.org for information.