

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 four 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.

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