

Honorable Senators

This bill is an invasion of privacy as it will lead to additional tracking and surveillance. Our data will be collected and stored by law enforcement in a database, which may be uploaded to a database owned or operated by the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center.

Any bill that says it is about public safety, collects your private information, and uploads it to a database is never a good idea because it has the potential to be hacked.

See link below for examples of problems with license plate readers in New York:

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/automatic-license-plate-readers>

The following two paragraphs are from the article.

The crux of the problem is that automatic license plate readers record every license plate scanned, regardless of whether the license plate matches a plate on the "hot list." And, as the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services puts it, the technology has reached the point that "the number of license plates that can be read is limited only by the number of vehicles passing the cameras." That's a lot of information to collect about innocent people.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has recognized this, warning that "mobile LPR units could read and collect the license plate numbers of vehicles parked at addiction counseling meetings, doctors' offices, health clinics, or even staging areas for political protests," and therefore can have a "chilling effect on social and political activities." Moreover, without appropriate privacy protections in place, local governments using license plate readers can amass a database of the comings and goings of innocent people over as long of a period of time as they have capacity for storage – and even share the information with other entities. In this way, license plate readers can create building blocks of a massive government database about New Yorkers, including their political and religious beliefs, daily habits and who they associate with.

In the near future, I can foresee the use of these readers to make sure people are not driving outside of their 15-Minute Cities.

Please vote against SB0784.

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