



www.lsc.ohio.gov

# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 553**  
**134th General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Patton

Larry Gunter, Jr., Research Analyst

### SUMMARY

- Prohibits a local authority, located in a county with a population of one million or more, from using traffic cameras to enforce traffic violations on interstate highways.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Prohibition on the use of traffic cameras by local authorities

Current law authorizes a local authority (a municipal corporation, township, or county) to utilize a traffic law photo-monitoring device (“traffic camera”) for the purpose of detecting traffic law violations, subject to statutory conditions. A traffic law violation is a failure to comply with either a traffic signal indication (i.e., a traffic light) or the failure to observe the applicable speed limit.

The bill prohibits a local authority, located in a county with a population of one million or more, from using traffic cameras to enforce traffic law violations on interstate highways (see **COMMENT**). The population of the county is determined by reference to the most recent federal decennial census.<sup>1</sup>

#### Definition

As used in the bill, “traffic law photo-monitoring device” means an electronic system consisting of a photographic, video, or electronic camera and a means of sensing the presence of a motor vehicle that automatically produces recorded images.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4511.093(B)(4); R.C. 4511.092(B) and (K), not in the bill.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4511.092(J), not in the bill.

---

## COMMENT

The provisions of the bill may not conform with a municipal corporation's home rule authority under Article XVIII, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution. See *Canton v. State*, 95 Ohio St.3d 149 (2002). The Ohio Supreme Court has routinely held that any municipal corporation may maintain a traffic camera program under its home rule authority (granted through Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution). *Dayton v. State*, 151 Ohio St.3d 168, 2017-Ohio-6909 ¶ 1; *Mendenhall v. Akron*, 117 Ohio St.3d 33, 2008-Ohio-270, 881 N.E.2d 255.

---

## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-26-22

---