

Senate Transportation Committee

Vivian Hall 271-3091

HB 1059, relative to the use of number plate scanning devices.

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026

Time Opened: 2:14 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:24 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Prentiss and Fenton

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill eliminates the prospective repeal of the regulation of number plate scanning devices, as the statute was set to be repealed on January 1, 2027. As a result, this statute will no longer be repealed.

Sponsors:

Rep. Scherr

Rep. D. McGuire

Who supports the bill: 46 individuals signed in support of HB 1059. Please contact Vivian Hall at vivian.hall@gc.nh.gov for more details.

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: Captain Brendan Davey, New Hampshire Department of Safety.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Buzz Scherr, Rockingham District 26

- HB 1059 would remove the January 1, 2027, repeal (sunset) date from RSA 261:75-b.
- RSA 261:75-b was enacted in 2017 with a 10-year sunset, authorizes law enforcement to use license plate readers (LPRs) to collect and store plate data.
- License plate reader systems store collected plate information in a database.
- Data that is not linked to a criminal investigation or missing person case is deleted.
- The intent of the original law was to allow use of LPR technology while maintaining privacy protections for New Hampshire residents.

Senator McConkey asked what technology was used in the license plate scanning devices.

Rep. Scherr responded that he would defer to the Department of Safety for that answer.

Neutral Information Presented:

Brendan Davey, Captain, New Hampshire Department of Safety

- Captain Davey stated that the bill would prevent law enforcement from losing access to technology they have come to rely on.
- License plate readers (LPRs) are cameras with built-in intelligence that can identify license plate numbers and compare them against databases known as “hot files.”
- He cited their use in emergency situations such as Amber and Silver Alerts.
- These cameras are typically mounted on a limited number of police vehicles.
- “Non-hit” data is retained only for a limited period, as established in the original statute.
- He noted that the state takes a conservative approach to data privacy, which can make investigations more challenging.
- He referenced the Brown University shooter, stating that a longer data retention period might have aided in tracking the suspect.

Senator Ricciardi briefly spoke about her past efforts to keep license plate scanners in the hands of the police. She expressed her support for the legislation.