

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Automated traffic enforcement

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Overview

This bill authorizes local units of government to use cameras to regulate traffic at intersections. The authority would go into effect August 1, 2013.

Under a 2007 Minnesota Supreme Court case, *State v. Kuhlman*, the court concluded that a Minneapolis ordinance authorizing photo enforcement of traffic lights conflicted with state law, which invalidated traffic camera use by local government in Minnesota. Part of the reasoning of the court was that state traffic law displaces local traffic law except for local law that is expressly permitted by state statute. This bill would provide such explicit permission.

Section

- 1 Traffic safety camera.** Defines “traffic safety camera” in the chapter of statutes on traffic regulation, to be a remotely operated device that can record vehicles at intersections.
- 2 Local authority.** Authorizes local units of government to use traffic cameras at intersections to regulate traffic.