MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Subject	Government data practices: automated license plate readers
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Overview

Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) use cameras to capture and store data on vehicle license plates. Used primarily by law enforcement as investigative tools or by private entities for security purposes, ALPRs can reveal the location of a vehicle at specific times. Entities that use ALPRs will often contract with technology companies, such as Flock Safety, to provide and maintain ALPR hardware and software as well as store and manage ALPR data.

This bill makes various changes to the current statute within the Government Data Practices Act which regulates ALPR data maintained by government entities. It requires all ALPR data to be centralized with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and restricts its dissemination outside the state, except where required by a court order or judicial warrant. The bill also creates a new consumer data protection law regulating ALPR use by private entities.

Summary

Section	Description
1	**Definitions.**
	Adds a definition of "law enforcement agency," limiting it to agencies within Minnesota.
2	**BCA to act as central repository of data.**
	Provides that the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) must maintain all ALPR data collected in the state under the law created in section 6 of the bill.
3	**Data collection; classification; use restrictions.**
	Removes a current restriction on creating a central statewide repository of ALPR data.

Section	Description

4 **Destruction of data required.**

Shortens to 48 hours the current 60-day period that ALPR data may be retained if they are not related to an active criminal investigation.

5 **Authorization to access data.**

Prohibits ALPR data from being shared or disseminated outside the state unless required by a court order or judicial warrant.

6 **ALPR data management.**

Creates a new section of law requiring the BCA to administer and maintain all ALPR data collected by law enforcement agencies in the state. Treatment of ALPR data remains governed by section 18.824.

7 **Automated license plate readers.**

Creates a new statute regulating ALPRs used by private entities. Requires signage informing the public when an ALPR is in use. Prohibits selling or disseminating ALPR data about an individual without the individual's affirmative consent, a court order, or a judicial warrant. States that ALPR data may be subject to the Minnesota Consumer Data Practices Act, as applicable.

8 **Transfer of ALPR data to the BCA.**

Requires all law enforcement ALPR data to be transferred to the BCA by December 1, 2026.

9 **Effective date.**

Makes all sections effective the day following final enactment.