



Red Light Camera Reforms Advance in Legislature *Measures Would Prioritize Safety Over Revenue and Increase Court Funding*

Sacramento, CA – Assemblymember Jerry Hill (D - San Mateo) announced today several reform efforts being advanced in the Legislature to address many of the red light camera issues raised over the last few months. The reforms include requirements that local governments conduct safety surveys to determine red light camera locations, adjusting the penalty amount for right turn on red violations, and increasing the funding available to county courts to handle the increased workload from red light camera violations.

“I’ve met with San Mateo County local governments, law enforcement, and the court and I’ve listened to the concerns expressed by local residents and I believe these reforms strike a balance to address concerns raised by all parties and improve the red light camera system statewide,” said Assemblymember Hill.

The following red light camera reforms are advancing in the legislature:

- **AB 909 (Hill)** – Adjusts the penalty amount for right turn on red violations to correct a 1997 law that inadvertently increased the amount to the same level as ‘straight through’ violations. The new penalty amount would be around \$250 dollars comparable to not stopping at a stop sign as opposed to the current \$450 violation amount for driving straight through a red light intersection. At one intersection in South San Francisco, 98 percent of the 672 red-light violations processed in a two-month period were for right turn on red violations.
STATUS: Will be voted on in the Senate Transportation Committee during the month of June.
- **SB 1362 (Simitian, principal coauthor Hill)** – Proposes numerous reforms including the requirement that prior to installing a red light traffic camera, the local government must first collect at least 6-months worth of traffic collision data to warrant the need for an automated traffic enforcement system at a specific intersection.
STATUS: Will be voted on by the entire Senate during the first week in June.
- **Budget Reform** – Creates a \$40 per citation fee on automated traffic enforcement vendors to raise \$28 million per year for local court funding.
STATUS: Will be debated as part of the budget during the month of June.

Assemblymember Hill also recently received a response from the letter he submitted to the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) regarding several policy concerns arising from red light traffic cameras. One of the most significant findings in the letter was that San Mateo County Superior Court processed 31,000 red light camera violations last year representing one-fifth of all the court’s traffic filings. The LAO determined that under current law, only a tiny fraction of current red light citation revenue is likely to be made available to help offset the court’s costs for processing red light violations.

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