

Local Use of Radar and LIDAR

Senate Bill 607 (PN 675), introduced by Senator Mario Scavello, amends Title 75 (Vehicles) authorizing the local use of both radar and LIDAR by any police officer. Prior to municipal use, a municipality, or each municipality in a regional police department, must adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of radar and/or LIDAR and signage must be placed within 500 feet of the border of the municipality on the main arteries entering the municipality. Police officers must also complete an approved training course.

The bill provides for an initial 90-day written warning period for violations. A person may not be convicted with evidence obtained from a speed-timing device unless his speed is recorded at more than ten miles-per-hour in excess of the legal speed limit or six or more miles-per-hour on an interstate highway with a posted speed of seventy miles per hour. Finally, there is a cap on the revenue that can be generated by speed enforcement citations at 20% of a municipality's total budget. Excess revenue must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Motor License Fund.

This bill is nearly identical to Senate Bill 251 that passed the Senate last session and is supported by the Radar Coalition. There are three House bills currently introduced and in the House Transportation Committee that place greater restrictions on the use of speed timing devices and are not supported by the Radar Coalition.

If enacted, Senate Bill 607 will take effect in 120 days.

Location: Senate Transportation Committee, April 30, 2019