

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 2788 (Committee on Transportation)

Version: June 17, 2026

Hearing Date: June 30, 2026

Fiscal: Yes

Urgency: No

ME

SUBJECT

Transportation: omnibus bill

DIGEST

This bill makes several changes within the jurisdiction of the Senate Transportation Committee. With regard to the Senate Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction, this bill revises provisions that were codified through SB 720 (Ashby, Ch. 782, Stats. 2025) related to the courts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SB 720 established an alternative automated traffic enforcement program for local governments to enforce red light violations. This bill revises provisions that were codified through SB 720. SB 720 authorized a city, county, or city and county to establish an automated traffic enforcement system program to detect a violation of a traffic control signal, if the system meets specified requirements. SB 720 established an administrative hearing process for notices of violations and authorized a contestant to seek review of the final decision by filing an appeal to the small claims division of the superior court or the traffic division of the superior court. The bill also specified that the conduct of the hearing on appeal is a subordinate duty that may be performed by a commissioner or other subordinate judicial officer. AB 2788 bill makes noncontroversial changes to these provisions. AB 2788 deletes references to the small claims division or traffic division of a superior court and instead authorizes a contestant to file an appeal to the superior court. The bill also specifies that the conduct of the hearing on appeal may be a subordinate duty.

This bill is the Assembly Transportation Committee's Omnibus bill. It is author sponsored and supported by the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association. Their support is based on a portion of the bill that affects them. The Committee has received no opposition to this bill. AB 2788 passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee with

a vote of 13 to 0. Should this bill pass this Committee, it will then be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes a city, county, or city and county to establish an automated traffic enforcement system program to use those systems to detect a violation of a traffic control signal, if the system meets specified requirements. (Veh. Code § 21455.9.)
- 2) Makes photographic, video, and administrative records made by a system confidential and specifies that data about the number of violations issued is not an administrative record required to be disclosed. (Veh. Code § 21455.9 (g).)
- 3) Establishes an administrative hearing process for notices of violations issued under 1) and authorizes a contestant to seek review of the final decision by filing an appeal to the small claims division of the superior court or the traffic division of the superior court, as specified. (Veh. Code § 21455.9 (k).)
- 4) Provides that the conduct of the hearing on appeal is a subordinate duty that may be performed by a commissioner or other subordinate judicial officer, as specified. (Veh. Code § 21455.9 (k).)

This bill:

- 1) Specifies that data about the number of violations issued is not an administrative record prohibited from disclosure and is subject to disclosure.
- 2) Deletes references to the small claims division or traffic division of a superior court and instead authorizes a contestant to file an appeal to the superior court.
- 3) Provides that the conduct of the hearing on appeal may be a subordinate duty.

COMMENTS

1. Makes noncontroversial changes to some provisions enacted through SB 720 (Ashby, Ch. 782, Stats. 2025)

This bill makes several changes within the jurisdiction of the Senate Transportation Committee. With regard to the Senate Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction, this bill revises provisions that were codified through SB 720 (Ashby, Ch. 782, Stats. 2025) related to the courts. SB 720 established an alternative automated traffic enforcement program for local governments to enforce red light violations.

According to the author's office:

SB 720 (Ashby) was modeled after AB 645 (Friedman), Chapter 808, Statutes of 2023, a bill that authorized specified cities to establish a Speed Safety System Pilot Program, utilizing automated enforcement for speeding violations. AB 645 (Friedman) clearly states, "Notwithstanding any provision of the California Public Records Act, or any other law, photographic or administrative records made by a system shall be confidential. Public agencies shall use and allow access to these records only for the purposes authorized by this article or to assess the impacts of the system. Data about the number of violations issued and the speeds at which they were issued is not considered an administrative record required not to be disclosed by this section."

In drafting SB 720 (Ashby), there was an error in mirroring this language. This bill ensures that the automated enforcement programs SB 720 (Ashby) authorized keep individual violation information confidential while maintaining the ability to report on the number of violations recorded.

Additionally, the court appeals process in SB 720 (Ashby) refers to filing an appeal to specific divisions within the superior court. This bill instead allows for an appeal to be filed with the superior court, which would provide the court with flexibility to properly assign the appeal. The current process also states that "the appeal under this section is a subordinate judicial duty". This bill makes the use of the subordinate judicial officer permissive, rather than required, to allow judges to also hear these cases where the court deems it necessary based on availability.

SUPPORT

Pacific Merchant Shipping Association¹

OPPOSITION

None Received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending Legislation: None known.

Prior Legislation: SB 720 (Ashby, Ch. 782, Stats. 2025) *see* Comments 1 and 2.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Transportation Committee (Ayes 13, Noes 0)
Assembly Floor (Ayes 78, Noes 0)
Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 15, Noes 0)
Assembly Transportation Committee (Ayes 15, Noes 0)

¹ The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association supports other provisions of the bill related to Bar Pilots.