

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Holly Seibold and Members of the Subcommittee
House Communications, Technology and Innovation Committee
Sub-Committee: Technology and Innovation
Virginia House of Delegates

RE: HB 775 – License Plate Reader Systems

Dear Chair Seibold and Members of the Subcommittee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in Virginia. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Virginia state and local law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including vehicle and catalytic converter theft. While NICB provides value to our member companies, we also serve a significant public benefit by helping to stem the estimated billions of dollars in economic harm that insurance crime causes to individual policy holders across the country every year.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) use cameras mounted to stationery or mobile fixtures to capture images of vehicles as they pass. ALPR technology is an invaluable tool in combating insurance-related crime. Law enforcement uses this information to assist in investigating and prosecuting criminal activity all over the country. Moreover, the information collected is entirely consistent with Fourth Amendment principles in terms of any individual's expectation of privacy in public spaces.

House Bill 775 would significantly limit the use of ALPRs, including prohibiting the ability for law enforcement agencies to share ALPR data with NICB and other third-party organizations without a subpoena. This restriction would obstruct law enforcement investigations into vehicle thefts and other vehicle-related crimes.

In addition, this bill would reduce NICB's capability to work with law enforcement, including using ALPR data to recover stolen vehicles. The Virginia General Assembly has previously recognized the important public benefit NICB provides to combat insurance crimes and vehicle theft in partnership with law enforcement through existing statute [Va. Code § 52-41](#) and preserving NICB's ability to share data with law enforcement through [Va. Code § 59.1-575](#). **Accordingly, NICB respectfully requests a wholesale exemption to HB 775.**

We thank you for considering our views as you deliberate the merits of this bill. We strongly encourage you to utilize NICB as a resource and partner in the fight against insurance fraud and crime. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at edecampos@nicb.org or 847.989.7104.

Sincerely,



Eric M. De Campos
Senior Director
Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau