

FACT SHEET
AB 628 (Assembly Member Block):
Pay-by-Plate for Toll Roads

Summary:

This bill would permit toll roads operating in California which already use vehicle identification cameras for recording toll violators to begin using the same technology for payment of normal toll rates. AB 628 authorizes valid California vehicle license plates as a permissible means to collect normal toll rates. This is in addition to current cash, transponder, or other electronic toll payment devices.

Problem:

Motorists entering toll highways or vehicular crossings are currently required to pay tolls or other charges and must have in the driver's immediate possession either a sufficient amount of cash or a transponder with an account balance to pay the tolls. Failure to have one of these two payment methods could subject the driver to a toll evasion violation fine of \$25-\$100 or more.

Individuals may accidentally enter a toll area with no ability to turn around, or may have mistakenly believed they had sufficient cash or a transponder unit until they reached a toll payment area. Furthermore, individuals may wish to utilize a toll road on an intermittent basis, but would be averse to doing so for lack of cash and threat of penalty. Because technology already exists to capture images of license plates and process them for toll violators, the same technology could be used to record images of plates for purposes of toll payment.

Solution:

This bill will permit, but not require, toll crossing or highway operators to utilize vehicle identification cameras to capture images of valid California vehicle license plates and submit for processing and normal toll collection to the vehicle owner, in addition to a nominal processing fee.

The toll operators would be responsible for establishing the mechanism to process a toll payment system. Motorists without valid California vehicle license plates or that fail to pay in accordance with the issuing agency's policies for pay-by-plate toll processing would still be subject to a violation and fine.

This bill is sponsored by South Bay Expressway, a private toll road operator of SR-125 in San Diego County.

For More Information Contact:

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