OLR Bill Analysis

SB 232

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS WITH AUTOMATED NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEMS.

SUMMARY

Beginning with FY 25, this bill requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to, annually and within available appropriations, administer a program to provide grants to law enforcement units to obtain "automated number plate recognition systems" (i.e., systems of at least one mobile or fixed electronic device that can record data on, or take photographs of, a vehicle or its number plate and compare the collected data and photographs to existing law enforcement databases for investigative purposes).

Under the bill, a "law enforcement unit" is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime.

By October 1, 2024, the department must create eligibility criteria for awarding the grants, develop application forms and deadlines, and post a description of the program on DESPP's website that includes the criteria, forms, and deadlines.

The bill also requires the department, starting by January 1, 2026, to annually report on the program to the Public Safety and Security Committee. The reports must include the following information for the prior calendar year: the number of applications received and grants awarded, and a list of the law enforcement units that obtained grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable
   Yea   22   Nay   1   (03/12/2024)