



SR0314

LRB098 11488 GRL 46022 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Current law authorizes the use of cameras at red lights in the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Madison, McHenry, St. Clair, and Will and the municipalities located within those counties; and

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WHEREAS, Redflex Traffic Systems Inc., an Australian company, is the international manufacturer of "red light" cameras; and

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WHEREAS, Redflex operates red light cameras in 38 Illinois municipalities; and

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WHEREAS, Redflex operates 384 red light cameras in the City of Chicago alone; and

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WHEREAS, Red light cameras have generated more than \$300 million in revenue for the City of Chicago since 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Redflex has collected more than \$100 million in revenue from its contract with the City of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, In late 2010, Redflex executives were implicated in a bribery scandal in Chicago; and

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1           WHEREAS, Following up on a letter from a whistleblower, the  
2 Chicago Tribune reported that a Redflex "consultant" had been  
3 making improper payments to a City of Chicago transportation  
4 official who was responsible for overseeing the awarding of  
5 contracts for the installation and operation of Chicago's  
6 widely-criticized red light camera system; and

7           WHEREAS, An investigation by the City of Chicago, delivered  
8 to the Redflex board in February of 2013, found that Redflex  
9 paid \$2.03 million in potential bribes to city officials; and

10           WHEREAS, The investigation found that Redflex's president  
11 had knowledge of the arrangement and had lied to Chicago's  
12 administration about the extent of the wrongdoing; and

13           WHEREAS, The Chicago Tribune is proclaiming that the  
14 Redflex bribery scandal "would rank among the largest in the  
15 annals of Chicago corruption"; and

16           WHEREAS, Inspector General Joseph Ferguson has stated that  
17 the Inspector General's Office has "found a lack of basic  
18 record keeping and an alarming lack of analysis for an ongoing  
19 program that costs tens of millions of dollars a year and  
20 generates tens of millions more in revenue"; and

21           WHEREAS, Courts in several states, including Ohio and

1 Minnesota, have ruled that red light cameras are an  
2 unconstitutional violation of due process; and

3 WHEREAS, A federal judge ruled that the City of Minneapolis  
4 must pay \$2.6 million dollars in restitution to anyone who  
5 received a red light camera citation, due to the  
6 unconstitutionality of red light cameras; and

7 WHEREAS, There exists public backlash over the use of red  
8 light cameras, due to the blatant revenue grab involved in  
9 using these cameras despite the presence of constitutional  
10 issues; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we strongly urge any  
13 municipality operating the unconstitutional red light cameras  
14 to remove them immediately; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge the Securities and Exchange  
16 Commission, the Illinois Attorney General, the United States  
17 Attorney of the Northern District of Illinois, and the States  
18 Attorneys of Cook, Lake, Kane, St. Clair, Madison, and McHenry  
19 Counties to conduct similar investigations into the misconduct  
20 of Redflex; suitable copies of this resolution are to be  
21 delivered to these entities; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That, in the interest of justice, we strongly  
2           urge all relevant entities to void all tickets issued in  
3           Chicago, the surrounding collar counties, and Madison and St.  
4           Clair counties ab initio due to criminal activity and issue  
5           refunds for the fines to the citizens who paid them.