

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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5975--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2017

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Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to privacy of electronic fare and toll records

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Statement of legislative intent. The legislature finds and  
2 declares that public entities increasingly are establishing electronic  
3 toll and electronic fare payment systems, which have the potential for  
4 great convenience to the general public. E-Z Pass, for example, allows  
5 motorists to have toll charges automatically deducted from pre-established  
6 accounts. Programs such as these have proven popular with consumers.  
7 But some consumers, public officials and public entities have  
8 raised legitimate questions about the extent to which records of individual  
9 travel created by such electronic toll and fare programs should  
10 be disclosed, and under what circumstances. This bill establishes  
11 reasonable, uniform provisions for maintaining the confidentiality of  
12 such records, while at the same time authorizing disclosure in cases of  
13 legitimate law enforcement need.

14 § 2. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 50-f to  
15 read as follows:

16 § 50-f. Privacy of electronic toll and fare records. 1. Definitions.  
17 As used in this section:

18 a. "Electronic toll information" shall mean records created or maintained  
19 by a public entity or by a contractor on behalf of a public entity  
20 concerning a motorist or motor vehicle regarding the use of any highway,  
21 bridge, tunnel or other thoroughfare, including but not limited to  
22 E-Z Pass records, which contain information such as (but not limited to)  
23 the name and address of the registered vehicle owner or account holder,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 a description and/or license plate number of the vehicle, the date, time  
2 and location of the passage of a vehicle through a toll collection  
3 location, and the statements of account additions and/or deductions  
4 prepared for or sent to the account holder.

5 b. "Electronic fare information" shall mean records created or main-  
6 tained by a public entity or by a contractor on behalf of a public enti-  
7 ty concerning an account holder, including but not limited to "Metro-  
8 card" and pass card system computer records concerning commuter railroad  
9 and/or transit facility use, which contain information such as (but not  
10 limited to) the name and address of the account holder; the date and  
11 time of fare card or fare media use; identification of the location or  
12 transit station where such fare card or fare media was used; and the  
13 statements of account additions and/or deductions prepared for or sent  
14 to the account holder.

15 c. "Public entity" shall mean and include any state or local depart-  
16 ment, agency, board, bureau, division, commission, public authority,  
17 public benefit corporation or office of the state or a political subdi-  
18 vision of the state, or any other entity performing a governmental or  
19 proprietary function for the state or any of its political subdivisions.

20 d. "Contractor" shall mean any entity engaged in performing customer  
21 service functions, including violations processing, under contract with  
22 a public entity.

23 2. Confidentiality of records. Electronic toll information and elec-  
24 tronic fare information is confidential information. Notwithstanding the  
25 provisions of any other law, such information shall not be open to the  
26 public, nor subject to civil or criminal process or discovery, nor  
27 subject to disclosure under the freedom of information law, nor used by  
28 any court or administrative or adjudicatory body in any action or  
29 proceeding therein, and no public entity or employee, officer or agent  
30 thereof shall disclose such information, except that such information:

31 a. shall be available for inspection and copying and use by the  
32 account holder for so long as such information is maintained by such  
33 public entity, employee, officer or agent; and

34 b. (i) shall be furnished when described in a search warrant issued by  
35 a court authorized to issue such search warrant pursuant to article six  
36 hundred ninety of the criminal procedure law, or a federal court author-  
37 ized to issue such search warrant under federal law, where such search  
38 warrant states there is reasonable cause to believe such information  
39 constitutes evidence of, or tends to demonstrate that, a misdemeanor or  
40 felony offense was committed in this state or another state, or that a  
41 particular person participated in the commission of a misdemeanor or  
42 felony offense in this state or another state, provided, however, that  
43 if such offense was against the laws of another state, the court shall  
44 only issue a warrant if the conduct comprising such offense would, if  
45 occurring in this state, constitute a misdemeanor or felony against the  
46 laws of this state; and

47 (ii) shall be furnished in response to a subpoena duces tecum signed  
48 by a judge of competent jurisdiction and issued pursuant to article six  
49 hundred ten of the criminal procedure law, or a judge or magistrate of a  
50 federal court authorized to issue such subpoena duces tecum under feder-  
51 al law, where the judge finds, and such subpoena states, there is  
52 reasonable cause to believe such information is relevant and material to  
53 the prosecution, or the defense, or the investigation by an authorized  
54 law enforcement official, of the alleged commission of a misdemeanor or  
55 felony in this state or another state, provided, however, that if such  
56 offense was against the laws of another state, such judge or magistrate

1 shall only issue such subpoena if the conduct comprising such offense  
2 would, if occurring in this state, constitute a misdemeanor or felony in  
3 this state; and

4 (iii) may, if lawfully obtained pursuant to this paragraph or para-  
5 graph a of this subdivision, and otherwise admissible, be used in a  
6 criminal action or proceeding; and

7 c. may be obtained and, if otherwise admissible, be used in a civil  
8 court or other civil administrative or adjudicatory body in any action  
9 or proceeding pending therein when such action or proceeding relates  
10 directly to the collection of toll or fare revenues and it is alleged:

11 (i) by the provider of such services that tolls or fares properly  
12 charged to the account holder remain unpaid; or

13 (ii) by the account holder that tolls or fares were improperly charged  
14 to such holder's account; and

15 d. may be used by such public entity or a contractor on behalf of a  
16 public entity for communications with the account holder, including  
17 monthly statements, announcements and notification of alleged  
18 violations; and

19 e. may be used by such public entity or a contractor on behalf of a  
20 public entity for customer service center to customer service center  
21 communications in connection with the administration of such electronic  
22 toll or electronic fare information system; and

23 f. limited to electronic fare information may, upon written request of  
24 the board of education of the city of New York identifying a specific  
25 student holding a student discount card issued by the metropolitan  
26 transportation authority and/or one of its subsidiary corporations, be  
27 provided by such metropolitan transportation authority and/or subsidiary  
28 corporation to such board of education of the city of New York.

29 3. Information. Nothing herein shall preclude the use of aggregate  
30 electronic toll or fare information which does not identify any individ-  
31 ual account holder in an action or proceeding involving such public  
32 entity, nor preclude the use, sale or distribution of information  
33 compiled from electronic toll or fare information, where such compiled  
34 information does not identify any individual account holder.

35 4. Notice. Every public entity that collects electronic toll or fare  
36 information shall provide regular and conspicuous notice, in writing, to  
37 applicants and account holders concerning the provisions of this  
38 section, which notice shall also describe the means by which account  
39 holders may obtain copies of their individual account records.

40 5. Violations. Any person who knowingly releases or permits the  
41 release of electronic toll or electronic fare information that is confi-  
42 dential under this section to a person or entity not entitled to receive  
43 such information shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to five thou-  
44 sand dollars.

45 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.