

STATE OF NEW YORK

2418

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2017

Introduced by Sen. MARCELLINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and
when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

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

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, 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-estab-
6 lished accounts. Programs such as these have proven popular with consum-
7 ers. But some consumers, public officials and public entities have
8 raised legitimate questions about the extent to which records of indi-
9 vidual 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 main-
19 tained by a public entity or by a contractor on behalf of a public enti-
20 ty concerning a motorist or motor vehicle regarding the use of any high-
21 way, 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,
24 a description and/or license plate number of the vehicle, the date, time
25 and location of the passage of a vehicle through a toll collection

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

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1 location, and the statements of account additions and/or deductions
2 prepared for or sent to the account holder.

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

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

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

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

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

32 b. shall be furnished when requested by a law enforcement agency for a
33 legitimate law enforcement purpose, as determined by the law enforcement
34 agency; and

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

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

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

43 d. may be used by such public entity or a contractor on behalf of a
44 public entity for communications with the account holder, including
45 monthly statements, announcements and notification of alleged
46 violations; and

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

51 f. limited to electronic fare information may, upon written request of
52 the board of education of the city of New York identifying a specific
53 student holding a student discount card issued by the metropolitan
54 transportation authority and/or one of its subsidiary corporations, be
55 provided by such metropolitan transportation authority and/or subsidiary
56 corporation to such board of education of the city of New York.

1 3. Information. Nothing herein shall preclude the use of aggregate
2 electronic toll or fare information which does not identify any individ-
3 ual account holder in an action or proceeding involving such public
4 entity, nor preclude the use, sale or distribution of information
5 compiled from electronic toll or fare information, where such compiled
6 information does not identify any individual account holder.

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

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

17 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.