

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4089--A

Cal. No. 254

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

February 27, 2019

Introduced by Sens. THOMAS, CARLUCCI, GOUNARDES -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Rules -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the public officers law, in relation to authorizing political subdivisions and certain public authorities to establish demonstration programs implementing railroad grade crossing monitoring systems by means of photo devices; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Section 135-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by  
2 chapter 501 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 135-a. Railroad grade crossing. A location where [~~a public highway~~  
4 ~~or private road, including associated sidewalks, crosses one or more~~]  
5 railroad tracks [~~at-grade~~] intersect a public or private highway, road-  
6 way or sidewalk.

7 § 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section  
8 1170-a to read as follows:

9 § 1170-a. Owner liability for failure of operator to obey signal  
10 indicating approach of train. (a) 1. Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of law, any political subdivision is hereby authorized and  
12 empowered to adopt and amend a local law, ordinance or resolution estab-  
13 lishing a demonstration program imposing monetary liability on the owner  
14 of a vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to comply with section  
15 eleven hundred seventy of this article. Such demonstration program shall  
16 empower a political subdivision to install and operate railroad grade

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

LBD10015-04-9

1 crossing photo violation-monitoring devices at any railroad grade cross-  
2 ing within its jurisdiction. If installation, operation or maintenance  
3 of equipment pursuant to this section requires entry upon the property  
4 of the commuter railroad, the political subdivision or its agent shall  
5 first secure permission from such railroad to enter upon the property.  
6 All such work shall be performed in accordance with applicable federal  
7 and state requirements and industry safety standards. The cost of such  
8 photo violation-monitoring devices may be borne by the political subdivi-  
9 vision, a commuter railroad operating within the political subdivision,  
10 or a combination of both such political subdivision and commuter rail-  
11 road pursuant to a memorandum of understanding.

12 2. Such demonstration program shall utilize necessary technologies to  
13 ensure, to the extent practicable, that photographs produced by such  
14 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring systems shall not  
15 include images that identify the driver, the passengers or the contents  
16 of the vehicle. Provided, however, that no notice of liability issued  
17 pursuant to this section shall be dismissed solely because a photograph  
18 or photographs allow for the identification of the contents of a vehi-  
19 cle, provided that such political subdivision has made a reasonable  
20 effort to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

21 (b) Within the jurisdiction of any such political subdivision which  
22 has adopted a local law, ordinance or resolution pursuant to subdivision  
23 (a) of this section, the owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penal-  
24 ty imposed pursuant to this section if such vehicle was used or operated  
25 with the permission of the owner, express or implied, in violation of  
26 section eleven hundred seventy of this article, and such violation is  
27 evidenced by information obtained from a railroad grade crossing photo  
28 violation-monitoring system; provided, however, that no owner of a vehi-  
29 cle shall be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this section where  
30 the operator of such vehicle has been convicted of the underlying  
31 violation of section eleven hundred seventy of this article.

32 (c) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
33 following meanings:

34 1. "Owner" shall have the meaning provided in article two-B of this  
35 chapter.

36 2. "Railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring system" shall  
37 mean a vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with a railroad  
38 sign or signal which automatically produces two or more photographs, two  
39 or more microphotographs, a videotape or other recorded images of each  
40 vehicle at the time it is used or operated in violation of section elev-  
41 en hundred seventy of this article.

42 3. "Political subdivision" shall mean a county, city, town or village  
43 located within the metropolitan commuter transportation district, as  
44 defined in section twelve hundred sixty-two of the public authorities  
45 law.

46 4. "Commuter railroad" shall mean a railroad owned and operated by the  
47 metropolitan transportation authority and located within the metropol-  
48 itan commuter transportation district, as defined in section twelve  
49 hundred sixty-two of the public authorities law.

50 5. "Operator" shall have the same meaning as provided in section two  
51 hundred thirty-nine of this chapter.

52 (d) A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by  
53 the political subdivision in which the charged violation occurred, or a  
54 facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, microphoto-  
55 graphs, videotape or other recorded images produced by a railroad grade  
56 crossing photo violation-monitoring system, shall be prima facie

1 evidence of the facts contained therein. Any photographs, microphoto-  
2 graphs, videotape or other recorded images evidencing such a violation  
3 shall be available for inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the  
4 liability for such violation pursuant to a local law, ordinance or  
5 resolution adopted pursuant to this section.

6 (e) An owner liable for a violation of section eleven hundred seventy  
7 of this article pursuant to a local law, ordinance or resolution adopted  
8 pursuant to this section shall be liable for monetary penalties in  
9 accordance with a schedule of fines and penalties to be established in  
10 such local law, ordinance or resolution. The liability of the owner  
11 pursuant to this section shall not exceed one hundred dollars for each  
12 violation; provided, however, that an adjudicating authority may provide  
13 for an additional penalty of not in excess of twenty-five dollars for  
14 each violation for the failure to respond to a notice of liability with-  
15 in the prescribed period of time.

16 (f) An imposition of liability under a local law, ordinance or resol-  
17 ution adopted pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a conviction  
18 as an operator and shall not be made part of the operating record of the  
19 person upon whom such liability is imposed nor shall it be used for  
20 insurance purposes in the provision of motor vehicle insurance coverage.

21 (g) 1. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each  
22 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of section elev-  
23 en hundred seventy of this article pursuant to this section. Personal  
24 delivery on the owner shall not be required. A manual or automatic  
25 record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of business shall be  
26 prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

27 2. A notice of liability shall contain the name and address of the  
28 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of section elev-  
29 en hundred seventy of this article pursuant to this section, the regis-  
30 tration number of the vehicle involved in such violation, the location  
31 where such violation took place, the date and time of such violation and  
32 the identification number of the camera which recorded the violation or  
33 other document locator number.

34 3. The notice of liability shall contain information advising the  
35 person charged of the manner and the time in which he or she may contest  
36 the liability alleged in the notice. Such notice of liability shall also  
37 contain a warning to advise the person charged that failure to contest  
38 in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liabil-  
39 ity and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

40 4. The notice of liability shall be prepared and mailed by the poli-  
41 tical subdivision, or by any other entity authorized by such political  
42 subdivision to prepare and mail such notification of violation.

43 (h) Adjudication of the liability imposed upon owners by this section  
44 shall be by the court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions,  
45 except that if such political subdivision has established an administra-  
46 tive tribunal to hear and determine complaints of traffic infractions  
47 constituting parking, standing or stopping violations such political  
48 subdivision may, by local law, authorize such adjudication by such  
49 tribunal.

50 (i) If an owner receives a notice of liability pursuant to this  
51 section for any time period during which the vehicle was reported to a  
52 law enforcement agency as having been stolen, it shall be a valid  
53 defense to an allegation of liability for a violation of section eleven  
54 hundred seventy of this article pursuant to this section that the vehi-  
55 cle had been reported to the police as stolen after the owner found out  
56 it was stolen and had not been recovered by the time the violation

1 occurred. For purposes of asserting the defense provided by this subdivi-  
2 vision it shall be sufficient that a certified copy of a police report  
3 on the stolen vehicle be sent by first class mail to the court or admin-  
4 istrative tribunal having jurisdiction.

5 (j) 1. In such political subdivision where the adjudication of liabil-  
6 ity imposed upon owners pursuant to this section is by a court having  
7 jurisdiction, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of  
8 liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of this section shall  
9 not be liable for the violation of section eleven hundred seventy of  
10 this article, provided that he or she sends to the court having juris-  
11 isdiction a copy of the rental, lease or other such contract document  
12 covering such vehicle on the date of the violation, with the name and  
13 address of the lessee clearly legible, within thirty-seven days after  
14 receiving notice from the court of the date and time of such violation,  
15 together with the other information contained in the original notice of  
16 liability. Failure to send such information within such thirty-seven  
17 day time period shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed  
18 by this section. Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this  
19 paragraph, the lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation  
20 shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this  
21 section, shall be subject to liability for the violation of section  
22 eleven hundred seventy of this article pursuant to this section and  
23 shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
24 section.

25 2. (I) In such political subdivision which has authorized the adjudi-  
26 cation of liability imposed upon owners by this section by an adminis-  
27 trative tribunal, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a  
28 notice of liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
29 section shall not be liable for the violation of section eleven hundred  
30 seventy of this article, provided that:

31 (A) prior to the violation, the lessor has filed with the tribunal the  
32 vehicle identification information in accordance with the provisions of  
33 section two hundred thirty-nine of this chapter; and

34 (B) within thirty-seven days after receiving notice from the tribunal  
35 of the date and time of a liability, together with the other information  
36 contained in the original notice of liability, the lessor submits to the  
37 tribunal the correct name and address of the lessee of the vehicle iden-  
38 tified in the notice of liability at the time of such violation, togeth-  
39 er with such other additional information contained in the rental, lease  
40 or other contract document, as may be reasonably required by the tribu-  
41 nal pursuant to regulations that may be promulgated for such purpose.

42 (II) Failure to comply with clause (B) of subparagraph (I) of this  
43 paragraph shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed in  
44 this section.

45 (III) Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this paragraph,  
46 the lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation shall be deemed  
47 to be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this section, shall be  
48 subject to liability for such violation pursuant to this section and  
49 shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
50 section.

51 (k) 1. If the owner liable for a violation of section eleven hundred  
52 seventy of this article pursuant to this section was not the operator of  
53 the vehicle at the time of the violation, the owner may maintain an  
54 action for indemnification against the operator.

55 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no owner of a  
56 vehicle shall be subject to a monetary fine imposed pursuant to this

1 section if the operator of such vehicle was using or operating such  
2 vehicle without the permission of the owner at the time such operator  
3 failed to obey a railroad sign or signal indicating the approach of a  
4 train. For purposes of this subdivision there shall be a presumption  
5 that the operator of such vehicle was using or operating such vehicle  
6 with the permission of the owner at the time such operator failed to  
7 obey a railroad sign or signal indicating the approach of a train.

8 (l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the liability  
9 of an operator of a vehicle for any violation of section eleven hundred  
10 seventy of this article.

11 (m) In any such political subdivision which adopts a demonstration  
12 program pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, such political  
13 subdivision shall submit an annual report on the results of the use of a  
14 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring system to the gover-  
15 nor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assem-  
16 bly on or before June first, two thousand twenty and on the same date in  
17 each succeeding year in which the demonstration program is operable.  
18 Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

19 1. a description of the locations where railroad grade crossing photo  
20 violation-monitoring systems were used;

21 2. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
22 intersections where a railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring  
23 system is used for the year preceding the installation of such system,  
24 to the extent the information is maintained by the department;

25 3. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
26 intersections where a railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring  
27 system is used, to the extent the information is maintained by the  
28 department;

29 4. the number of violations recorded at each intersection where a  
30 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring system is used and in  
31 the aggregate on a daily, weekly and monthly basis;

32 5. the total number of notices of liability issued for violations  
33 recorded by such systems;

34 6. the number of fines and total amount of fines paid after first  
35 notice of liability issued for violations recorded by such systems;

36 7. the number of violations adjudicated and results of such adjudi-  
37 cations including breakdowns of dispositions made for violations  
38 recorded by such systems;

39 8. the total amount of revenue realized by such political subdivision  
40 from such adjudications;

41 9. expenses incurred by such political subdivision in connection with  
42 the program; and

43 10. quality of the adjudication process and its results.

44 (n) It shall be a defense to any prosecution for a violation of  
45 section eleven hundred seventy of this article pursuant to a local law  
46 or ordinance adopted pursuant to this section that the railroad signal  
47 indications were malfunctioning at the time of the alleged violation.

48 § 3. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section  
49 1633 to read as follows:

50 § 1633. Railroad grade crossing enforcement; demonstration program.

51 (a) 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Long Island Rail  
52 Road and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad (hereinafter referred to as  
53 "the commuter railroads") are hereby authorized and empowered to imple-  
54 ment a demonstration program imposing monetary liability on the owner of  
55 a vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to comply with section  
56 eleven hundred seventy of this chapter. Such demonstration program

1 shall empower each of the commuter railroads to install, operate and  
2 maintain railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring devices at  
3 any railroad grade crossing with a sign or signal that indicates the  
4 approach of one of its trains. If installation, operation or maintenance  
5 of equipment pursuant to this section requires entry upon the property  
6 of the political subdivision, the commuter railroad or its agent shall  
7 first secure permission from such political subdivision to enter upon  
8 the property. All such work shall be performed in accordance with appli-  
9 cable federal and state requirements and industry safety standards. The  
10 costs associated with the installation, operation and maintenance of the  
11 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring equipment located on  
12 the railroad right of way shall be borne by the commuter railroad,  
13 provided, however, in any case where the equipment is to be located on  
14 both railroad property and the property of the political subdivision,  
15 the terms and conditions for installation, operation and maintenance of  
16 such equipment, including cost apportionment, if applicable, shall be  
17 determined pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the commu-  
18 ter railroad and the political subdivision.

19 2. Such demonstration program shall utilize necessary technologies to  
20 ensure, to the extent practicable, that photographs produced by such  
21 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring systems shall not  
22 include images that identify the driver, the passengers or the contents  
23 of the vehicle. Provided, however that no notice of liability issued  
24 pursuant to this section shall be dismissed solely because a photograph  
25 or photographs allow for the identification of the driver, the passen-  
26 gers or the contents of a vehicle, provided that the commuter railroad  
27 has made a reasonable effort to comply with the provisions of this para-  
28 graph.

29 (b) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (a) of this section and  
30 subject to the adjudicatory process of the appropriate political subdivi-  
31 vision, the owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penalty imposed  
32 pursuant to this section if such vehicle was used or operated with the  
33 permission of the owner, express or implied, in violation of section  
34 eleven hundred seventy of this chapter, and such violation is evidenced  
35 by information obtained from a railroad grade crossing photo violation-  
36 monitoring system; provided, however, that no owner of a vehicle shall  
37 be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this section where the oper-  
38 ator of such vehicle has been convicted of the underlying violation of  
39 section eleven hundred seventy of this chapter.

40 (c) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the  
41 following meanings:

42 1. "Owner" shall have the meaning as provided in article two-B of this  
43 chapter;

44 2. "Railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring system" shall  
45 mean a vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with a railroad  
46 sign or signal which automatically produces two or more photographs, two  
47 or more microphotographs, a videotape or other recorded images of each  
48 vehicle at the time it is used or operated in violation of section elev-  
49 en hundred seventy of this chapter;

50 3. "Political subdivision" shall mean a county, city, town or village  
51 located within the metropolitan commuter transportation district, as  
52 such district is defined in section twelve hundred sixty-two of the  
53 public authorities law.

54 4. "Operator" shall have the same meaning as provided in section two  
55 hundred thirty-nine of this chapter.

1 (d) A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by  
2 the commuter railroad where the charged violation occurred, or a facsim-  
3 ile thereof, based upon inspection or photographs, microphotographs,  
4 videotape or other recorded images produced by a railroad grade crossing  
5 photo violation-monitoring system, shall be prima facie evidence of the  
6 facts contained therein. Any photographs, microphotographs, videotape or  
7 other recorded images evidencing such a violation shall be available for  
8 inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such  
9 violation pursuant to law.

10 (e) An owner liable for a violation of section eleven hundred seventy  
11 of this chapter pursuant to a railroad grade crossing demonstration  
12 program adopted pursuant to this section shall be liable for monetary  
13 penalties not to exceed one hundred dollars for each violation provided,  
14 however, that an adjudicating authority may provide for an additional  
15 penalty of not in excess of twenty-five dollars for each violation for  
16 the failure to respond to a notice of liability within the prescribed  
17 period of time.

18 (f) An imposition of liability pursuant to this section shall not be  
19 deemed a conviction as an operator and shall not be made part of the  
20 operating record of the person upon whom such liability is imposed nor  
21 shall it be used for insurance purposes in the provision of motor vehi-  
22 cle insurance coverage.

23 (g) 1. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each  
24 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of section elev-  
25 en hundred seventy of this chapter pursuant to this section and a copy  
26 of such notice shall be sent by first class mail to the political subdivi-  
27 vision. Personal delivery on the owner shall not be required. A manual  
28 or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of busi-  
29 ness shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

30 2. A notice of liability shall contain the name and address of the  
31 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of section elev-  
32 en hundred seventy of this chapter pursuant to this section, the regis-  
33 tration number of the vehicle involved in such violation, the location  
34 where such violation took place, the date and time of such violation and  
35 the identification number of the camera which recorded the violation or  
36 other document locator number.

37 3. The notice of liability shall contain information advising the  
38 person charged of the manner and the time in which he or she may contest  
39 the liability alleged in the notice. Such notice of liability shall also  
40 contain a warning to advise the person charged that failure to contest  
41 the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liability  
42 and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

43 4. The notice of liability shall be prepared and mailed by the commu-  
44 ter railroad, or by any other entity authorized by such commuter rail-  
45 road to prepare and mail such notification of violation.

46 (h) Adjudication of the liability imposed upon owners by this section  
47 shall be by the court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions,  
48 except that if a political subdivision has established an administrative  
49 tribunal to hear and determine complaints of traffic infractions consti-  
50 tuting parking, standing or stopping violations, such political subdivi-  
51 sion may, by local law, authorize such adjudication by such tribunal.

52 (i) If an owner receives a notice of liability pursuant to this  
53 section for any time period during which the vehicle was reported to a  
54 law enforcement agency as having been stolen, it shall be a valid  
55 defense to an allegation of liability for a violation of section eleven  
56 hundred seventy of this chapter pursuant to this section that the vehi-

1 cle had been reported to the police as stolen after the owner found out  
2 it was stolen and had not been recovered by the time the violation  
3 occurred. For purposes of asserting the defense provided by this subdivi-  
4 vision it shall be sufficient that a certified copy of a police report  
5 on the stolen vehicle be sent by first class mail to the court or admin-  
6 istrative tribunal having jurisdiction or parking violations bureau.

7 (j) 1. In any political subdivision where the adjudication of liabil-  
8 ity imposed upon owners pursuant to this section is by a court having  
9 jurisdiction, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of  
10 liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of this section shall  
11 not be liable for the violation of section eleven hundred seventy of  
12 this chapter, provided that he or she sends to the court having juris-  
13 isdiction a copy of the rental, lease or other such contract document  
14 covering such vehicle on the date of the violation, with the name and  
15 address of the lessee clearly legible, within thirty-seven days after  
16 receiving notice from the court of the date and time of such violation,  
17 together with the other information contained in the original notice of  
18 liability. Failure to send such information within such thirty-seven day  
19 time period shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed by  
20 this section. Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this  
21 paragraph, the lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation  
22 shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this  
23 section, shall be subject to liability for the violation of section  
24 eleven hundred seventy of this chapter pursuant to this section and  
25 shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
26 section.

27 2. (i) In any political subdivision which has authorized the adjudi-  
28 cation of liability imposed upon owners by this section by an adminis-  
29 trative tribunal, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a  
30 notice of liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
31 section shall not be liable for the violation of section eleven hundred  
32 seventy of this chapter, provided that:

33 (A) Prior to the violation, the lessor has filed with the tribunal the  
34 vehicle identification information in accordance with the provisions of  
35 section two hundred thirty-nine of this chapter; and

36 (B) Within thirty-seven days after receiving notice from the tribunal  
37 of the date and time of a liability, together with the other information  
38 contained in the original notice of liability, the lessor submits to the  
39 tribunal the correct name and address of the lessee of the vehicle iden-  
40 tified in the notice of liability at the time of such violation, togeth-  
41 er with such other additional information contained in the rental, lease  
42 or other contract document, as may be reasonably required by the tribu-  
43 nal pursuant to regulations that may be promulgated for such purpose.

44 (ii) Failure to comply with clause (B) of subparagraph (i) of this  
45 paragraph shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed in  
46 this section.

47 (iii) Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this paragraph,  
48 the lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation shall be deemed  
49 to be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this section, shall be  
50 subject to liability for such violation pursuant to this section and  
51 shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (g) of this  
52 section.

53 (k) 1. If the owner liable for a violation of section eleven hundred  
54 seventy of this chapter pursuant to this section was not the operator of  
55 the vehicle at the time of the violation, the owner may maintain an  
56 action for indemnification against the operator.



1 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no owner of a  
2 vehicle shall be subject to a monetary fine imposed pursuant to this  
3 section if the operator of such vehicle was using or operating such  
4 vehicle without the permission of the owner at the time such operator  
5 failed to obey a railroad sign or signal indicating the approach of a  
6 train. For purposes of this subdivision there shall be a presumption  
7 that the operator of such vehicle was using or operating such vehicle  
8 with the permission of the owner at the time such operator failed to  
9 obey a railroad sign or signal indicating the approach of a train.

10 (l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the liability  
11 of an operator of a vehicle for any violation of section eleven hundred  
12 seventy of this chapter.

13 (m) Where a commuter railroad adopts a demonstration program pursuant  
14 to subdivision (a) of this section, such railroad shall submit an annual  
15 report on the results of the use of a railroad grade crossing photo  
16 violation-monitoring system to the governor, the temporary president of  
17 the senate and speaker of the assembly on or before June first, two  
18 thousand twenty and on the same date in each succeeding year in which  
19 the demonstration program is operable. Such report shall include, but  
20 not be limited to:

21 1. a description of the locations where railroad grade crossing photo  
22 violation-monitoring systems were used;

23 2. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
24 intersections where a railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring  
25 system is used for the year preceding the installation of such system,  
26 to the extent the information is maintained by the department;

27 3. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
28 intersections where a railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring  
29 system is used, to the extent the information is maintained by the  
30 department;

31 4. the number of violations recorded at each intersection where a  
32 railroad grade crossing photo violation-monitoring system is used and in  
33 the aggregate on a daily, weekly and monthly basis;

34 5. the total number of notices of liability issued for violations  
35 recorded by such systems;

36 6. the number of fines and total amount of fines paid after first  
37 notice of liability issued for violations recorded by such systems;

38 7. the number of violations adjudicated and results of such adjudi-  
39 cations including breakdowns of dispositions made for violations  
40 recorded by such systems;

41 8. the total amount of revenue realized by all applicable political  
42 subdivisions from such adjudications;

43 9. expenses incurred by such commuter railroad and political subdivi-  
44 sion in connection with the program; and

45 10. quality of the adjudication process and its results.

46 (n) It shall be a defense to any prosecution for a violation of  
47 section eleven hundred seventy of this chapter pursuant to a local law  
48 or ordinance adopted pursuant to this section that there is verified  
49 evidence that the railroad signal indications were malfunctioning at the  
50 time of the alleged violation.

51 § 4. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 1803 of the  
52 vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 385 of the laws of 1999,  
53 is amended to read as follows:

54 Except as otherwise provided in subdivision five of section two  
55 hundred twenty-seven of this chapter, section eleven hundred seventy-a  
56 of this chapter, section sixteen hundred thirty-three of this chapter

1 and as provided in section eleven hundred ninety-seven of this chapter,  
2 section ninety of the state finance law and sections fourteen-f and one  
3 hundred forty of the transportation law, all fines and penalties  
4 collected under a sentence or judgment of conviction of a violation of  
5 this chapter or of any act relating to the use of highways by motor  
6 vehicles or trailers, now in force or hereafter enacted, shall be  
7 distributed in the following manner:

8 § 5. Section 1803 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding  
9 a new subdivision 10 to read as follows:

10 10. Where a commuter railroad establishes a railroad grade crossing  
11 demonstration program pursuant to section sixteen hundred thirty-three  
12 of this chapter, all fines, penalties and forfeitures collected pursuant  
13 to such section shall be paid to the county, city, town or village with-  
14 in whose jurisdiction the subject railroad grade crossing is located.

15 § 6. Subdivision 2 of section 87 of the public officers law is amended  
16 by adding a new paragraph (q) to read as follows:

17 (q) are photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded  
18 images prepared under the authority of section eleven hundred seventy-a  
19 of the vehicle and traffic law.

20 § 7. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
21 have become a law, and shall expire and be deemed repealed 5 years after  
22 such effective date.