



March 2, 2023

From: Dave Draovitch
Chief of Police

To: Senator David Clemens, Chairman, and Members of the Transportation Committee

Subj: HB 1295

I come before you today to seek your opposition to HB 1295. As you know, HB 1295 makes it possible to display only one license plate on the rear of a motor vehicle. I and the vast majority of the members of the BPD oppose this bill for one simple reason, a motor vehicle with a front license plate gives us a much better chance to solve all manner of crimes.

A few years ago, we implemented patrol cars with license plate readers (LPRs) to our fleet. We currently have five in total. The cameras have about a 270-degree view that can capture license plates. This is one of the main reasons we at the BPD oppose HB 1295. It is highly unlikely the LPRs will capture the rear plate of a vehicle that has passed us from the opposite direction. That is one very important reason front license plates are crucial for us to solve crimes. We meet many more vehicles than we follow.

As important is the ability for officers to be able to see front license plates when they are responding to crimes in progress. It is very difficult for them to try and see a rear plate and still drive safely, especially in low light and bad weather conditions. Since we only have five patrol cars equipped with LPRs, we have many more patrol officers out in cars not equipped with LPRs. Their ability to see a front license plate could be crucial to us being able to solve the crime they are responding to.

The LPRs have been a gamechanger in helping us solve crime. Although LPRs help us solve crime while the officer is on patrol e.g., locating a stolen vehicle or a vehicle on a watch list etc., what makes them so useful and important is the data they collect and the ability to query that data in the back end of the system. As stated earlier, we meet many more vehicles than we follow. Eliminating the requirement for a front license plate will greatly diminish the data we collect. We have used the data collected to solve many serious crimes to include homicide. We have also been able to find very dangerous people by being able to find where their vehicle has parked over time. I'm sure there are other excellent reasons why this is important to us too.

I thank you for the time I have been allowed to provide information about this very important Bill and I thank you for considering opposing it as it is written today.

Dave Draovitch, Chief of Police

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If you have any questions feel free to contact me at your convenience. I may be reached at ddraovitch@bismarcknd.gov or 701-223-1212.

Respectfully,



DAVE DRAOVITCH
Chief of Police

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