



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 31, 2025

TO: District Court Judges
District Court Magistrates
District Court Administrators

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd, State Court Administrator

RE: School Bus Stop-Arm Camera System (Public Act 161, 162 & 163 of 2024)

On December 10, 2024, Governor Whitmer signed [2024 PA 161](#), [2024 PA 162](#), and [2024 PA 163](#) into law with an effective date of **April 2, 2025**.

The new laws allow school buses to be equipped with stop-arm camera systems that can automatically record video or sequenced photographs of vehicles that fail to stop for a school bus or passes a school bus in violation of MCL 257.682(1). School districts may enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies for enforcement and reimbursement of costs related to camera-based violations. Law enforcement agencies may review information regarding alleged camera-based violations and mail a citation via first-class mail to the registered owner of the vehicle within 30 days of receiving information regarding the violation.

The new laws will impact how courts process these types of civil infractions. Please read the public acts carefully and determine what changes will need to be implemented in your court. The following is a list of anticipated questions and the authority for each in the new laws.



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School Bus Stop-Arm Camera System (Public Act 161, 162 & 163 of 2024) Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Who issues the citation for a school bus stop-arm camera violation?

A1: A law enforcement agency may review stop-arm camera system information and has 30 days after receiving the stop-arm camera information to review the evidence and issue a citation if there is sufficient evidence that a violation occurred. MCL 257.682(6).

Q2: How is the citation issued by law enforcement for a school bus stop-arm camera violation?

A2: If a law enforcement agency determines that it has sufficient evidence that a violation occurred, the law enforcement agency may initiate an action by mailing via first-class mail a citation to the registered owner of the vehicle involved in the violation. The mailing must include:

- a copy of the captured photograph or selected images from a recorded video showing the vehicle involved in the violation;
- if the violation is based on a recorded video, a method to view the recorded video on a website;
- the date, time, and location of the alleged violation; and
- a statement of the facts inferred from the captured photograph or recorded video. MCL 257.682(7) and MCL 257.742(9).

Q3: How is the citation filed with the court?

A3: The law enforcement agency must still file the citation with the court within three days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after issuing the citation. MCL 257.728a.

Q4: How does the court get a copy of the captured photograph, or the recorded video, if the citation is contested?

A4: Evidence of the captured photograph or recorded video would be submitted as evidence in a formal or informal hearing from either the law enforcement agency or the registered owner cited for the violation. See generally MCL 600.8719; MCL 600.8721.



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Q5: What if the registered owner of the vehicle wasn't the driver of the vehicle at the time of the violation?

A5: Proof that a particular vehicle described in the citation was in violation of MCL 257.682, together with proof that the defendant named in the citation was, at the time of the violation, the registered owner of the vehicle, constitutes a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the driver of the vehicle at the time of the violation. MCL 257.682(3). The presumption may be rebutted at a hearing. See generally MCL 600.8719; MCL 600.8721.

Q6: How much is the civil fine for a failure to stop for a school bus stop-arm camera violation?

A6: The individual found responsible for a civil infraction for failing to stop for a school bus stop-arm camera violation must pay a civil fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500. MCL 257.682(5).

Q7: Would a default and default judgment still enter after a failure to appear by the registered owner of the vehicle by the date specified on the citation?

A7: MCR 4.101(B)(4) requires the court to enter a default against the defendant if the defendant fails to appear or otherwise respond to the civil infraction action and impose a sanction by entering a default judgment. Aside from the manual adjustment of the due date discussed below, these entries should be processed in the same manner as other civil infractions.

Q8: When will a default and default judgment enter for camera-based violations of MCL 257.682?

A8: Courts using the JIS District Court System (DCS) set the due date for civil infractions in their Notice Days Inquire & Update (Z-record). This date is automatically calculated from the **offense date**, not the filing date. Law enforcement has up to 30 days to mail a ticket to the defendant after receiving information regarding the offense. When entering the case on the Traffic/Criminal Case Entry screen, clerks will need to manually populate the Court Date field with a future date, accounting for this delay, to prevent the system from automatically setting the Court Date. Otherwise, a default and default judgment will generate the next time the court runs their Date Generated Notices program. Aside from the manual adjustment of the due date, these entries should be processed in the same manner as other civil infractions.



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Q9: Where does the court transmit the fine for camera-based violations?

A9: A civil fine for a camera-based violation must be paid to the county treasurer or the county treasurer's designee, who shall distribute the paid civil fines not less than monthly to the school district that operates the school bus. MCL 600.8379(3); MCL 257.909(3); MCL 257.682(8).

Q10: Will this require a new cash code or any other codes for school bus stop-arm camera violations?

A10: Yes. JIS is working on the following new cash codes and will provide additional information and guidance in the coming weeks.

- **Fine Cash Code:** JIS is developing a new fine DCS Cash code for camera-based violations of MCL 257.682. Courts will be informed by JIS when it is developed and are responsible for adding the new code into their Cash Subsystem. Courts must ensure their local transmittal form contains a new line item for these violations. JIS will run a program to add the code into the DCS Traffic/Criminal Code File.
- **Plaintiff Costs Cash Code:** JIS is developing two new Cash codes for plaintiff costs (statute and ordinance). Courts will be informed when it is developed and are responsible for adding the new codes into their Cash Subsystem and updating their local transmittal form as needed. JIS will run a program to add the codes into the DCS Traffic/Criminal Code File.
- **Charge Codes:** In JIS DCS, courts will need to create two new Charge codes for camera-based violations of MCL 257.682 in their local ordinance table, one for an ordinance violation (OI) and one for a statute violation (SI). The Charge codes will use the new fine cash code and one of the new plaintiff costs cash codes, along with the standard Justice System Assessment (JSTC) of \$40.00.
- **School Districts:** In JIS DCS, courts will need to create four-character codes to identify different school districts. The codes will be used in report generators to assist the court in informing the county treasurer or the county treasurer's designee about the school district(s) for which fines were collected and should be distributed.
- **Non-JIS Courts:** Contact your CMS vendor to determine what changes are necessary for proper collection and distribution of the fines collected for camera-based violations under MCL 257.682.